



Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية تصدر بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية «الراي»

China backs nuclear-free Mideast

CAIRO (AP) — Chinese Defence Minister Qian Qunxi met Egyptian Defence Minister Hosni Mubarak Tuesday and told him his country supported the United States' Middle East peace initiative. Qian said China would support a nuclear-free Middle East. He also said China would support a nuclear-free Middle East. He also said China would support a nuclear-free Middle East.

PLO begins meetings in Baghdad

BAGHDAD (AP) — The Palestine Liberation Organisation's (PLO) Executive Committee convened Tuesday to discuss U.S. threats to sever a dialogue it had initiated with the PLO more than two years ago. Palestinian sources said the committee would not say if Yasser Arafat, a member of the committee, would attend the meeting. But Arafat's spokesman, also reporting anonymously, said he had not shown up in time for the first session. It was not clear how many sessions the committee would hold, but similar meetings in the past have lasted several days.

Volume 15 Number 4409

AMMAN WEDNESDAY, JUNE 6, DHUL QAIDEH 12, 1410

Price: Jordan 100 fils; Saudi Arabia 1.50 riyals; UAE 1.50 dirhams

King to visit Libya soon

AMMAN (J.T.) — Libyan leader Muammar Qaddafi has extended an invitation to His Majesty King Hussein to visit Libya, and the King has promised to pay the visit as soon as possible. Prime Minister Mudar Badran said Tuesday. Speaking to reporters following the first meeting of the Lower House of Parliament's extraordinary session, Badran said that Jordan will soon name its ambassador to Tripoli. Jordan decided to restore diplomatic ties with Libya before the Amman Arab summit of November 1987, but it was only earlier this year that the two countries made arrangements for the reopening of embassies, closed since 1984. Badran also told reporters the Joint Jordanian-Egyptian Higher Committee will convene this month.

Four sentenced to death in Egypt

CAIRO (AP) — A Cairo criminal court Tuesday sentenced four Muslim fundamentalists to death for killing a teenager after trying him for alleged immoral behaviour. The fundamentalists hanged the 14-year-old boy to the home of one of them, tied him with a robe then set up a religious tribunal. They strangled him after a summary trial then buried him in a hole at a graveyard in a Cairo suburb on June 20 last year.

Shanhouk, Hun Sen urge ceasefire

TOKYO (R) — Leaders of Cambodia's two warring sides signed a joint communiqué in Tokyo Tuesday calling for a voluntary ceasefire and the resumption of the Paris-based international conference on Cambodia. Prime Minister Hun Sen of the Vietnam-backed Phnom Penh government and Prince Norodom Ranariddh, nominal leader of the three-party guerrilla coalition, signed the document. Cambodia parties to the 11-year civil war converged on Tokyo last weekend for a two-day peace conference, saying they expected a formal ceasefire pact. Hopes were shattered when the Communist Khmer Rouge, Shanhouk's nominal ally, boycotted the talks.

Kuwait welcomes Iraq-Iran contacts

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait, which was on the fringes of the 1980-83 Iraq-Iran war, welcomed Tuesday the resumption of talks between the Baghdad and Tehran leaderships. "We hope that the day will come when the two presidents meet to settle all their problems and when peace and stability prevail in the Arab Gulf region," Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Sabah told reporters. A resumption of flights by Kuwait Airways, the national carrier, to Tehran was expected soon.

Two Christians join Hrawi cabinet

BEIRUT (R) — Two Christian politicians have decided to end a six-month boycott and join Lebanon's "national reconciliation" government, officials said Tuesday. They said George Saadeh and Michel Sassi told President Elias Hrawi and Prime Minister Salim Hoss that they would take up their ministerial posts immediately. Saadeh, minister of post and telecommunications, is a Maronite Christian and president of the largest Christian political party, the Phalange. Sassi, deputy prime minister and minister of labour, is a Greek Orthodox and member of the National Liberal Party.

Fundamentalists warn Algerian army

ALGIERS (AP) — Islamic fundamentalists predict a landslide victory next week in nationwide local elections and have warned the army not to interfere with the outcome of Algeria's first multi-party balloting. Abassi Madani, president of the Islamic Salvation Front, told an estimated 100,000 supporters at a rally Monday night that his party — the main opposition to the ruling National Liberation Front — would win 75 per cent of the votes.

King assails U.S. veto, urges 'ethical' policy

American delegation affirms no peace without independent Palestinian state

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN — His Majesty King Hussein Tuesday assailed the recent American veto of a U.N. Security Council resolution calling for the dispatch of a fact-finding mission to the Israeli-occupied territories and said Washington should adopt an "ethical and positive" stand towards the Arab-Israeli conflict.

"It is difficult not only for us in Jordan but for everyone in the Arab World to understand why the United States adopted such a position," the King told a group of Americans in the first official Jordanian statement on the American veto last week.

Members of the delegation, on "mission for a just solution in the Middle East," quoted the King as saying that the U.S. particularly in view of the international changes, has a "moral responsibility to act fairly if it is to assume the role that it can play in bringing peace to the Middle East and to contribute to world peace in general."

"The King said the veto was a serious setback to peace efforts and that he was more than disappointed with the American position," said John Anderson, a presidential candidate in 1980 and a member of the delegation.

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, said the King also expressed regret over Israel's refusal to withdraw from the occupied Arab territories. "This extremist Israeli position fosters extremism on the other side, thus thwarting all hopes planned on efforts for peace in the region," the King said.

The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), the King said, "has done all that it was asked to do to reach a just and durable peace; yet Israel is hesitating on its extreme position."

On Soviet Jewish immigration to Israel, the King was quoted as saying that the Arab World "respects the right of people to emigrate and freedom of travel and stay provided such rights are not granted at the expense of the human rights of other people."

The King explained that the massive wave of Soviet Jewish immigrants to Israel not only undermines efforts for peace in the Middle East but also threatens the eviction of the Palestinian people living in the occupied territories.

"The mission for a just solution in the Middle East" is led by former Senator Charles Percy (Republican — Illinois) and includes 49 others drawn from all walks of American life, including politicians, Middle East experts, journalists, leading clergymen representing Islam, Christianity and Judaism, academics, businessmen and lawyers.

The team, which was in Amman late last month and was received by His Royal Highness Crown Prince, arrived here earlier Monday from the occupied West Bank and Israel where they met with Israeli as well as Palestinian leaders.

The mission has adopted a position which is basically in line with the Arab stand on peace with Israel: An independent Palestinian state through negotiations with the direct involvement of the PLO under international auspices.

In a statement issued Monday in occupied Jerusalem, Percy and Anderson blamed the hardline government of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir for the deadlock in efforts for peace.

A warning that the American Congress may cut aid to Israel if the Jewish state continues to settle immigrants in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip came from Anderson, a former Republican congressman who sought presidency as an independent in 1980.

"Although I am no longer a member, I have served in the American Congress for 20 years, and I believe that both senators and representatives have a responsibility to ensure that our tax-dollars are expended in support of our policies," Anderson told the Jordan Times Tuesday. "Obviously, Israel's settlement policy contradicts our policy and I believe that there are many of my colleagues who would reconsider American aid which is used to contradict our policies."

Anderson said he would seek to "tell the real story" of the Palestinian problem to the American public and policymakers "through my writings, my speeches and my contacts with congressmen when I get back home."

He accused the Israeli occupation authorities of "wholesale violations of human and civil rights (of the Palestinian people) in the occupied territories" and said that "I do not believe the American public is aware of the realities..."

"A solution has to be found," he said. "This solution cannot come without an independent Palestinian state."

Anderson paid tribute "to the great courage of the Palestinian people, who, despite the great pain and suffering, are determined to achieve their aspirations for an independent state..."

"We believe the Israeli government is not as willing to explore openings for dialogue as are many of the Israeli people," he said.

The delegation met with several Palestinian leaders, including Faisal Al Hussein and Sari Nusseibeh who were among a group of Palestinians who were staging a hunger-strike demanding international protections for the Palestinian people living in the occupied territories as well as Hikmat Al Masri and Saeed Kanan, and visited refugee camps and towns in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

While both Israeli and Palestinian leaders the delegation met disowned responsibility for the stalled peace process, the team's statement issued in Jerusalem pinned greater blame on Israel and urged the Jewish state to accept the PLO as a negotiator in peace talks.

"The Israeli position is totally unrealistic," Percy reiterated the position in an interview with the Jordan Times Tuesday. "The PLO is the internationally accepted representative of the Palestinian people and Israel has to accept this reality and break the deadlock."

"Even the U.S. and the Soviet Union — our time enemies who would not talk to each other — have now resorted to dialogue to settle their problems, and I do not see any logic in Israel's continued rejection of any dealing with the PLO," he said.

"The main message that all Palestinians we met had to give us was that Israel has to negotiate with the PLO, and without the PLO there can be no peace," said Nissim Matir, an American Arab origin.

The fact that the Israeli right wing is continuing to entertain the theory of "Jordan as the solution" was underlined by Moshe Arens, the Israeli foreign minister, according to Percy. "When we touched on the subject of a two-state solution in Palestine, Arens immediately retorted that 'the Palestinians already have a state in the occupied territories'."

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Lower House begins extraordinary session

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Lower House of Parliament began an extraordinary session Tuesday and referred to its respective committees several draft laws and amendments to legislation forwarded to it by the government.

The draft laws and amendments assigned to the committees relate to economic crimes, higher education and universities, imports and exports, foreign investments, the penal code, the national military service, the defence law, foreign residents, and illegal profiteering.

At the end of the session, which was attended by Prime Minister Mudar Badran, Cabinet members and 76 deputies, Speaker Suleiman Arrar announced that the House would hold its next meeting Saturday.

In addition to debating draft laws and amendments, the House will also discuss Soviet Jewish immigration to Palestine, policies in regard to rising prices and unemployment, educational and information policies, issues referred to it by its Finance Committee and a report by the Audit Bureau.

Before the House went into session, two deputies — Issa Reimouni and Ahmad Abbadi — distributed two separate statements dealing with last month's protests in Jordan, and the anniversary of the 1967 Arab-Israeli war.

Reimouni called on Parliament to condemn the United States' veto against a U.N. Security Council resolution that would have allowed the United Nations to send observer teams to the occupied territories.

The deputy also urged the House to deplore Washington's interference in the affairs of the Palestinian Liberation Organisation (PLO).

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Gorbachev flies home from U.S.

SAN FRANCISCO (Agencies) — Mikhail Gorbachev completed a hero's tour of North America and flew home to deal with a stack of political and economic headaches and reports of new riots in Soviet Central Asia.

Gorbachev left San Francisco, urging greater efforts for world peace and Western investment to help his shaky economy, amid reports that police had shot into a rioting crowd in the Soviet city of Osh, killing six and injuring more than 200 (see page 8).

His week-long summit trip to Canada and the United States ended Monday with an historic meeting with South Korean President Roh Tae-woo.

Roh said the two, in the first encounter between Soviet and South Korean leaders, had agreed in principle to establish diplomatic relations. There was no comment from the Soviet side.

The Soviet president, who has been courting Western business leaders, told U.S. industrialists earlier Monday that American investment was essential to future bilateral relations.

He also played down the problems of rising internal opposition to his perestroika programme and insisted his economic reforms were moving ahead.

Nonetheless, the headaches facing him at home are daunting: An economy in shambles, ethnic violence, a Baltic independence drive that threatens to tear the country apart, and mounting political challenges from his arch-rival, Boris Yeltsin, new president of the Russian federation.

Soviets to withdraw warheads — As Gorbachev flew home, the Soviet Union announced its plans to withdraw 1,500 nuclear warheads from Central Europe by the end of the year.

Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze also told a 35-nation human rights conference in Copenhagen that his government will pull out 60 tactical missile launchers, more than 250 units of atomic artillery and 3,200 atomic guns.

Shevardnadze in a speech said Soviet differences with the United States over Germany's military future could be worked out in a compromise.

He said the Soviet-led Warsaw Pact would undertake a "transformation" at its next meeting and that NATO should do the same.

"This is the way, as we underlined in the past, that we can find a compromise on the German issue," Shevardnadze said.

U.S. Secretary of State James Baker planned to assure Shevardnadze at a meeting Tuesday night that the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) would undertake a review of its mission in light of lowered East-West tensions, U.S. officials said.

Baker also will propose to Shevardnadze an acceleration of negotiations to remove short-range nuclear weapons from Europe, they said.

U.S. President George Bush and the heads of 15 other allied governments will meet in London next month. The occasion is expected to see a lowering of NATO's military profile and a shift to more of a political profile.

Shevardnadze said the Soviet withdrawal of nuclear weapons from Central Europe would ease tensions and "give more latitude to man."

He did not say how much of an arsenal the Soviets would leave behind.

Baker also promised the Soviets Western economic help in an attempt to get Moscow's support for NATO membership for a united Germany.

Emigration law delayed — The Soviet legislature Tuesday postponed until at least September adoption of a new emigration law that Washington says is necessary before it will give Moscow preferential trade status.

Gorbachev and Bush signed a bilateral trade agreement at the Washington summit, but Bush said he won't press the U.S. Congress to grant the Soviet Union most-favoured-nation trading status until the emigration legislation is passed.

GCC criticises U.S. veto of U.N. mission

RIYADH (AP) — Oman's foreign minister, Yusef bin Alawi, Tuesday called on the United States to develop a more humane approach to the Palestinian problem.

"We know that the United States is exerting efforts to solve the (Arab-Israeli) problem in a just manner, but we hope that it will look at the Palestinian case in a humanitarian way."

Dispatching an international commission to the Israeli-occupied Arab territories would be "a humanitarian mission and the Arab states take this seriously," he said.

Alawi made the statement to reporters after he and his counterparts in the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) expressed their "deep regret" at the U.S. veto of a U.N. Security Council resolution last week.

The resolution proposed sending a fact-finding commission to probe the conditions of the Palestinians under Israeli occupation in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The ministers of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates and the chairman Oman, issued a communique early Tuesday.

It condemned the "inhuman Zionist policy that aims at annihilating the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination and to an independent Palestinian state, and the resort to violence and oppression in face of the determination of these people to end the (Israeli) occupation."

The communique renewed support for the Palestinian people, who are in the third year of an uprising or intifada in the occupied territories, "until they are able to reach a solution that fulfils their aspirations."

The GCC countries are

pledged to use their close ties with the United States and other Western powers to help push an Arab-Israeli settlement that takes into account the Arab demands. GCC leaders were at last week's Iraq-hosted summit conference of the 21-member Arab League, where the United States was held responsible for Israeli intransigence on the Middle East peace-making process because of its moral and material support to the Jewish state.

The headline stance of the government of Yitzhak Shamir, and the government crisis in Israel, have deadlocked the initiative of U.S. Secretary of State James Baker to arrange a peace dialogue between the Israelis and the Palestinians.

Saudi Arabia, the dominant party in the GCC alliance, recently hosted Britain's Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd and urged European efforts to help Washington push through the peace-making process, diplomatic sources said.

The GCC ministers also discussed efforts to help turn a nearly 2-year-old ceasefire between Iraq and Iran into a lasting peace. The communique praised Iraqi President Saddam Hussein for initiating direct messages with his Iranian counterpart Hashemi Rafsanjani.

The messages reportedly included a proposal for a summit between the belligerents, who waged an eight-year war until August 1988.

"The Iranian positive response would help provide the propitious atmosphere for starting the direct

peace talks," said the communique.

It pledged support for the U.N. Secretary-General in full implementation of U.N. Security Council Resolution 598, which laid the bases for Iraq-Iran peace.

The GCC communique urged a Saudi-led, three-man Arab panel on Lebanon, which also includes Morocco and Algeria, to pursue its efforts to bring peace to Lebanon.

It also praised the recent merger of North and South Yemen, and announced a decision to start official talks with the European Community on developing a trade pact between the two blocs.

Kuwait Monday officially expressed its disappointment over the U.S. veto of the U.N. Security Council Resolution.

A Foreign Ministry spokesman said Kuwait's stance was relayed by the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Saad Al Osaimi to the U.S. Ambassador Wilson Nathaniel Howell who was summoned to the Foreign Ministry for the purpose.

The spokesman said Osaimi expressed Kuwait's "extreme regret and disappointment over the U.S. vetoing of the resolution because such an attitude harms the Palestinian human rights in the occupied Arab territories and at the same time encourages Israel to go ahead with its oppressive policy against the Palestinian people," the spokesman said.

Osaimi also pointed out that "the recurrent use of the veto power by the United States against the Palestinian people will affect its ability to play a key role in the Middle East peace process." The statements were circulated by the official Kuwait News Agency (KUNA).

Top aide warns Israel on Soviet immigration

TEL AVIV (R) — Israel should heed Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev's threat to stop the flow of Jewish immigrants if they are settled in disputed areas, a top Israeli immigration official says.

"Gorbachev holds the Jews. We do not have to erect obstacles in his path," Simcha Dinitz, chairman of the semi-official Jewish Agency, said in remarks published in Israeli newspapers Tuesday.

The remarks contrasted with Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's flat rejection of Gorbachev's warning at a Washington summit that Moscow would consider halting the influx unless immigrants were barred from occupied Arab lands.

"There is nothing more important now than to save the Jews and bring them home. Any other considerations that could conceivably interfere with this objective must be set aside," Dinitz said.

"The government has to set its own policy but it should be done wisely," said Dinitz, a dovish Labour Party member.

Shamir, head of the hardline Likud Party, denied Israel had a policy of settling newcomers in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. But Israelis receive incentives to settle there, and housing costs are considerably cheaper than elsewhere.

Dinitz said Gorbachev was bowing to pressure from the Arab World, already opposed to the 70,000 Jews living in settlements among the 1.7 million Palestinians of the Arab territories occupied in the 1967 Middle East war.

Israel expects up to 250,000 Soviet Jews this year. Dinitz said only 285 of the 49,000 Soviet arrivals since April 1989 — or 0.5 per cent — had moved to the Arab territories.

Soviet Jews who choose to settle in the occupied areas are not entitled to an \$11,000 stipend from the Jewish Agency, instead they get help from the Israeli government.

"The Jewish Agency, for example, does not spend one cent on settlements in the territories," Dinitz said.

Shamir said Monday that Israel would not prevent Soviet Jews from settling in the occupied Arab territories.

The Jewish Agency raises funds abroad and takes charge of bringing immigrants to Israel.

"Our budget is based on 70,000 immigrants this year and this is no longer the reality. We are asking the United Jewish Appeal, (the main U.S. money source) to increase money for absorption," agency media adviser Guri Grossman told Reuters.

Greece frees U.K. driver

PATRAS, Greece (R) — A Greek tribunal dropped all charges Tuesday against British lorry driver Paul Ashwell, accused of transporting parts for an Iraqi supergun.

The three-judge tribunal cleared Mr. Ashwell of all charges after ruling that he did not know what he was carrying on his truck, prosecutor Antonis Mitsotakis said.

Ashwell, 26, from Northampton, England, was arrested on April 20 in this western port. His truck was laden with a 29.5-ton steel pipe which Greek authorities said was bound for Iraq as part of massive cannon.

40,000 children killed in Lebanon civil war

BEIRUT (AP) — The Lebanon representative of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) said Tuesday 40,000 children have been killed in Lebanon's 15-year-old civil war.

Andre Roberfroid, a Belgian, pleaded with leaders of the various warring factions in Lebanon to "please accept to draw the lines that will guarantee such protection to your children."

Roberfroid made the appeal in a statement he read at the United Nations Information Centre in Beirut on the occasion of the "International Day of Children Victims of Aggression."

"In this country, in 15 years of war, less than 40,000 children have been killed, many more



Fifteen years after Lebanon's civil war began, children play on the wreckage of one of the first buildings destroyed on the 'green line.'

wounded, handicapped or crippled," he said.

The civil war, which broke out in 1975, has killed at least 150,000 people, by police count, and inflicted severe damage to the nation's economy.

Roberfroid also said "thousands of children have lost their parents, more lost their houses... and thousands of school

days have been lost, hundreds of schools have been destroyed or damaged."

"Fifteen years is the age at which childhood ends as agreed in the newly adopted international convention on human rights of the child."

"This means that one complete generation of children in Lebanon has been actually living all its

child life in an environment of war and aggression," the UNICEF representative explained.

He said the situation of children in Lebanon was "unacceptable, unbearable, inhuman."

"Again I repeat to all who have any responsibility, please consider that children are no part to the conflict... leave them in peace, give them a chance."

Khamenei repeats call on U.K. to hand over Rushdie

NICOSIA, Cyprus (AP) — Iranian spiritual leader Ali Khamenei Tuesday reiterated his country's demand that author Salman Rushdie be turned over to British Muslims and executed, Tehran Radio said.

The statement seemed likely to dampen hopes expressed recently by British officials for a resolution of the crisis in London-Tehran relations, which was sparked by the February 1989 execution call made by the late Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini.

"The imam's edict concerning Salman Rushdie is based on divine verses and must be carried out," the radio quoted Khamenei as saying in a report monitored by the British Broadcasting Corp.

"This issue has an easy way out. There are no knots that cannot be untied," he said. "Salman Rushdie is an offender and the divine edict concerning him must be carried out."

"This offender should be handed over to Britain's Muslims so that the divine edict concerning him be carried out."

British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, grasping what she called a "significant olive branch" from Iran, Sunday expressed deep respect for Islam and said Britain is anxious to restore diplomatic ties.

But she stopped well short of meeting Iran's demand that the government condemn the British author for his book, the Satanic Verses, which many Muslims consider blasphemous.

Iranian Foreign Ministry Director-General Hussein Mousavian said last week that the book and the Rushdie issue remain the major obstacle to improvement in London-Tehran relations.

But in a news conference, he indicated a willingness to discuss the Rushdie dispute with Britain.

Khartoum rejects U.S. proposal to end civil war

KHARTOUM (AP) — Sudan's military government said Tuesday it rejected a U.S. proposal to end a 7-year-old civil war that has caused hundreds of thousands of deaths in southern Sudan.

Col. Mohammad Ali Amin Khalifa, member of the ruling 15-officer junta, told the newspaper Al Ingaz Al Watany the American proposal was designed "to internationalise" the conflict unnecessarily.

Herman Cohen, Washington's assistant secretary of state for Africa, brought the proposal to Khartoum last March.

Details were not disclosed, but Sudanese officials said at the time that it proposed a ceasefire to stop the war. They did not reject it, saying the government would await a response from the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA).

In Al Ingaz Al Watany, Khalifa

said the proposal called for Sudan to withdraw its troops from the south. International troops then would be brought in as a buffer between the rebels and the government until final peace could be achieved.

The colonel said the United States recently "disagreed with international consensus" in the United Nations and vetoed a Security Council resolution to send a monitoring committee to Arab lands occupied by Israel.

In light of the veto, Khalifa said, "this strange proposal calling for withdrawal of the Sudanese government's troops from its own territories" is unscrupulous. In that it "is based on a similar idea" as the U.N. resolution.

Khalifa also appeared to reject an Egyptian plan to end the war. He said it was no different from the American one.

FLN old guards return in force to lead Algerian election campaign

ALGIERS (R) — The old guard of Algeria's ruling National Liberation Front (FLN), pushed to the sidelines for most of the 1980s, has returned in force to lead its campaign for the first free elections next week.

Widely discredited after 28 years of one-party rule, the FLN is seeking to reignite public enthusiasm with fiery patriotic rhetoric and star speakers from the era of former President Houari Boumedienne.

The campaign appears to have succeeded in mobilising the FLN's traditional constituency — veterans of the 1954-62 guerrilla war against France, civil servants and the peasantry.

But it has run into trouble in inner-city strongholds of the opposition Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) and among Berber-speaking supporters of the Socialist Forces Front (FFS) of revolutionary war hero Hocine Ait Ahmed.

"Down with the FLN," shouted residents of the Algiers suburb of Ain Benian, an FFS area, Saturday night after a rally hosted by Kasdi Merbah, prime minister from 1988 to 1989 and security chief under Boumedienne.

Mohammad Salah Yahiaoui and Abdul Aziz Bouteflika, rivals of President Chadli Benjedid at Boumedienne's death in 1979, have been stirring the crowds across the country, according to reports in the state-owned press.

"Who here has not benefited from free medical care and education for all? Can we forget the building of universities and factories and agricultural villages and dams and roads under policies of the front?" asked Yahiaoui, party boss under Boumedienne, at a rally in the

western city of Mascara.

FLN rallies often start with a minute's silence for the 1.5 million Algerians Algeria says died in the war against France. Pictures of Boumedienne are posted on the walls and a rally in Bouira, southwest of Algiers, broadcast his speeches.

Boumedienne is fondly remembered by many Algerians for a period of economic growth in the 1970s fuelled by oil revenue, brutally cut in half in the early 1980s.

Mohammed Yazid, now director of the National Institute for Global Strategic Studies, said recently the FLN was condemned to political oblivion if it did not radically reform itself and replace the old guard with younger leaders.

But the campaign, which formally ends Tuesday, has been led almost entirely by the old guard which made a surprise comeback in the FLN Central Committee last November after nearly a decade out of politics.

This was bound to sharpen divisions within the FLN after the elections between conservative figures and President Chadli Benjedid, who launched liberal economic and political reforms after October 1988 youth riots, political analysts said.

To undercut support for their main rival, the FIS, campaigners have been highlighting the FLN's role in liberating Islam in Algeria from French colonial rule, and vowing to root out corruption in their ranks.

"No country has given as much to our true Islamic religion as Algeria under the leadership of the FLN," former industry and energy minister in the 1970s, Belaid Abdesselam, told a rally in the eastern city of Skikda.

The FLN media say the old

timers have been greeted with rapturous applause, ululating women and cries of "Allahu Akbar" (God is Great).

But the limits of their appeal were graphically illustrated in the Algiers district of Hussein Dey Sunday night where the FIS enjoys wide support among down-and-out youth hit hard by the economic crisis of the 1980s.

To attract local youth, the local FLN section sponsored a competition of neighbourhood football teams and distributed prizes after a speech by Merbah.

But once the prizes were in their hands, the youth began to shout, "FIS, FIS, (FIS leader) Abbasi Madani."

Several hundred youths, some of them too young to vote, marched down the main street to the local FLN headquarters shouting, "FLN assassins" — a reference to army intervention in October 1988 that killed scores of rioting youth.

'Conspiracy of silence'

An Algerian opposition leader Sunday denounced what he called a "conspiracy of silence" by the state-run media against a march by tens of thousands of his supporters in central Algiers last Thursday.

Hocine Ait Ahmed, leader of the Socialist Forces Front (SFF), told a news conference lack of coverage of the march showed the limits of Algeria's emerging multi-party democracy.

"Hundreds of thousands of men and women came and they were ignored... a democracy without free information, without equal treatment of political movements, is not a democracy," he said.

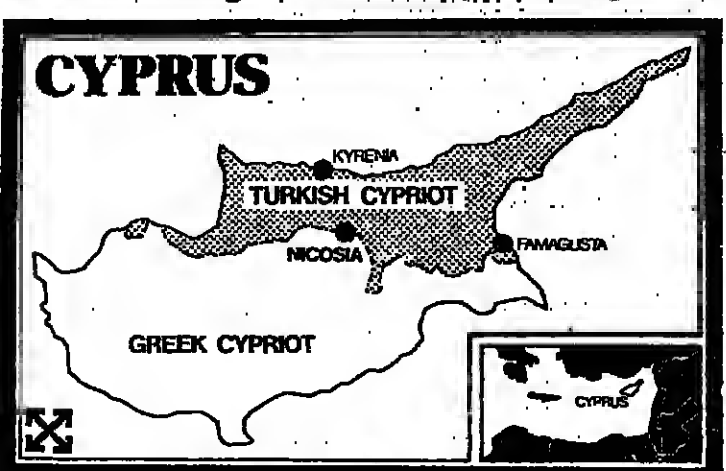
JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION	
Tel: 773111-19	
PROGRAMME ONE	
15:30	Koran
15:45	Programme review
15:55	Children's programme
16:05	Educational programme
16:15	News summary in Arabic
16:25	Cairo news message
16:35	Local programme
16:45	News in Arabic
16:55	Arabic series
17:05	Arabic programme
17:15	News in Arabic
17:25	Play
PROGRAMME TWO	
18:00	Panique aux caribbes
18:10	News in French
18:20	Documentary
18:30	News in Hebrew
18:40	News in Arabic
18:50	The Nuclear Age
19:00	News in English
19:10	Hemingway
PRAYER TIMES	
03:51	Fajr
05:25	(Sunrise) Dhuhr
12:34	Dhuhr
16:15	Asr
19:43	Maghrib
21:17	Isha

CHURCHES	
St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swatikh, Tel. 810740	
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785	
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440	
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757	
Terrence Church Tel. 622366	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541	
Anglican Church Tel. 623383, Tel. 628453	
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331	
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261	
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751	
Assyrian International Church Tel. 685326	
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811255	
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints Tel. 815817, 654932	
WEATHER	
Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.	
Another rise in temperatures will occur and winds will be northerly to northwesterly moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.	

EMERGENCIES	
Civil Defence Department	661111
Civil Defence Emergency	630341
Rescue	199
Rescue Police	192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade	691228
Highway Police	843402
Traffic Police	896390
Public Security Department	630321
Hotel Complaints	605800
Price Complaints	661176
Water and Sewerage	674155
Complaints	897467
Amman Municipality	787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance)	121
Overseas Calls	010230
Central Amman Telephone	623101
Repairs	731101
Abdallah Telephone Repairs	661101
Radio Jordan	774111
Water Authority	680100
RJ Flight Information	08-53200
Queen Alia Intl. Airport	08-53200
HOSPITALS	
AMMAN: Hussein Medical Centre... 813813/32	

ARRIVALS	
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)	
08:30	Karachi (KU)
09:00	Damascus (PK)
09:15	Jeddah (SV)
09:30	Larnaca (CY)
10:00	Doha, Bahrain (RU)
10:15	Baghdad (IR)
10:30	Cairo (EG)
10:45	Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RU)
11:00	Baghdad (IR)
11:15	Paris (AF)
11:30	New Delhi (IN)
11:45	Madrid, Rome (RU)
12:00	London, Brussels (RU)
12:15	Paris, Geneva (RU)
12:30	Aqaba (RU)
Other Flights (Terminal 2)	
05:30	Dubai (EK)
05:45	Baghdad (IA)
06:00	Jeddah (SV)
06:15	Larnaca (CY)
06:30	Rome (AZ)
06:45	Baghdad (IA)
07:00	Larnaca (CY)
07:15	Jeddah (SV)
07:30	Karachi (KU)
07:45	Beirut (MS)
08:00	Baghdad (IA)
08:15	Cairo (MS)
08:30	Jeddah, Sana'a (YU)
08:45	Karachi (KU)
DEPARTURES	
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)	
12:00	Cairo (RU)
12:15	Amsterdam, New York (RU)
12:30	Tunis, Casablanca (RU)
12:45	London (RU)
13:00	Baghdad (RU)
13:15	Aqaba (RU)
13:30	Karachi (RU)
13:45	Bahrain, Doha (RU)
14:00	Riyadh (RU)
14:15	New Delhi (RU)
14:30	Cairo (RU)
14:45	Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RU)
15:00	Calcutta, Bangkok (RU)
15:15	Bangkok (RU)
Other Flights (Terminal 2)	
08:30	Larnaca, Zurich (SR)
08:45	Beirut (MS)
09:00	Rome (AZ)
09:15	Rome (AZ)
09:30	Baghdad (IA)
09:45	Larnaca (CY)
10:00	Jeddah (SV)
10:15	Karachi (KU)
10:30	Beirut (MS)
10:45	Baghdad (IA)
11:00	Cairo (MS)
11:15	Jeddah, Sana'a (YU)
11:30	Karachi (KU)
11:45	Beirut (MS)
12:00	Baghdad (IA)
12:15	Cairo (MS)
12:30	Jeddah, Sana'a (YU)
12:45	Karachi (KU)



ANKARA (R) — Greek Prime Minister Constantine Mitsotakis called for talks with Turkey on the division of Cyprus and said the issue was an obstacle to Ankara's hopes of joining the EC.

"Cyprus is the key to (Turkish-EC) relations. We don't want to totally block them. An improvement (in the situation in Cyprus) will be sufficient for us," Mitsotakis said on Turkish television Monday night.

"It would not be rational to say the dispute can be solved as long as Turkish soldiers remain on Cyprus," he told the 32nd Day News Programme. "Cyprus lies at the heart of Turkish-Greek ties. This is an inalienable condition for Greece."

Ankara and Athens should start talks on Cyprus, to run in parallel with an existing U.N.-sponsored dialogue between Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots, Mitsotakis said.

The two NATO members are traditional enemies. Relations plummeted when Turkey invaded Cyprus in 1974 after a short-lived coup in Nicosia backed by a military junta then ruling Greece.

Ankara says it acted to protect Turkish Cypriots from the more numerous Greek Cypriots. Turkish Cypriots now run a break-away state in the northern third of the island recognised only by Ankara and backed by 29,000 Turkish troops, according to

MARKET PRICES	
Upper/lower price in lbs per kg	
Apples	250 / 250
Bananas	300 / 450
Bananas (Mekans)	450 / 400
Beans	320 / 280
Broad beans	330 / 300
Carrots	100 / 60
Cauliflowers	180 / 1

Potash firm studies expansion feasibility

AMMAN (J.T.) — A feasibility study for expanding the operations of the Arab Potash Company (APC) near the southern tip of the Dead Sea is underway and is scheduled to be completed by the end of 1990, according to Nasser Saadoun, deputy managing director for APC's technical affairs.

The feasibility study is being conducted by a major international consultancy firm and is designed to boost the APC's production capacity by 400,000 tonnes annually, Saadoun said.

He said that once the study had been completed work on the \$66 million project could start, but would not be finalised before 1994.

"The present production capacity now stands at 1.4 million tonnes, but the expansion scheme will boost this figure to 1.8 million tonnes," according to Saadoun.

APC Managing Director Ali Ensour earlier had said in a statement on Jordan Television that the expansion project would be carried out in two stages, eventually enabling the company to produce 2.25 million tonnes of potash annually by the year 1996.

The APC plants, located near the southern coast of the Dead Sea, last year produced 1.25 million tonnes of potash which earned the country \$127 million.

Established in 1982, the company had overcome numerous difficulties and has been able to pay back debts and boost its earnings and profits by increasing potash sales which account for about a fifth of the country's exports, according to Ensour.

APC is shared by Jordan, which owns 54 per cent of the capital, and Kuwait, Libya, Saudi Arabia and the Islamic Development Bank.

PSD outlines procedures for visits to W. Bank

AMMAN (Petra) — The summer visits programme for West Bankers and Gazans will commence as of Monday, 13 May, according to Public Security Department (PSD) officials.

The PSD's Ali Hareth, Brigadier Director, Brigadier Abdul Hamid Rusheid, was quoted as saying by the Arabic daily Al-Dustour that registration centres would start functioning as of Saturday. Actual booking starts Monday, 13 May.

To facilitate the registration and booking process, Brig. Rusheid said, the department has established registration centres in the various governorates.

Arwa Bint Al-Hareth registration centre in Jabal Amman has been assigned for travellers to Jerusalem and Hebron areas, while Aisha Un'Al Munineen school, on Jabal Hussein, was assigned for the registration of Gazans; Al-Husseini school in Jabal Hussein was assigned for registration of citizens from Nab-

lus.

Other registration centres will be opened in the bridges police administration centre, Salt Girls School, Zarqa camp police station and Al-Najda police centre in Irbid.

Rusheid called on all travellers wishing to visit the occupied territories to obtain a temporary Jordanian passport before travel and stressed the need for children born outside the occupied West Bank to obtain a visit permit in advance. Children aged five and more should have a temporary passport.

Children less than five should be included in their parent's passport and should produce an original Jordanian certificate of birth.

The PSD official said those born during 1958-1972 should get a special departure permit from the Armed Forces Recruitment and Mobilisation Unit, if they are in possession of a yellow card.

Jordan gets EC grant for livestock

AMMAN (J.T.) — The European Community (EC) is to provide the Ministry of Agriculture in Jordan with a grant totalling JD 282,000 to provide high quality artificial insemination for the country's 30,000 cattle and dairy herd, and to upgrade reproductive diseases control and monitoring, according to an agreement signed here Tuesday.

The agreement is in implementation of the third financial and technical protocol signed earlier by EC and Jordan, according to the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

The EC project will address problems facing Jordan's artificial insemination facilities, particularly the lack of liquid nitrogen, storage facilities, properly equipped vehicles, training in insemination techniques and reproductive disease control methods and monitoring.

The two-year support services

project is expected to enhance cattle quality and quantity and milk and meat production.

According to Petra, the programme entails providing training not only to cattle breeders but also to technicians and veterinarians working for the Ministry of Agriculture. It said that altogether 10 specially equipped vehicles to help with the artificial insemination procedures will be provided by the EC under the agreement.

Last August, in Brussels the EC gave the go-ahead for the grant which is hoped to help Jordan increase its production of lean meat.

The agreement Tuesday was signed by Minister of Planning Awni Al-Masri and EC head of delegation Christian Falkowski in the presence of senior officials from the ministry and the EC delegation in Jordan.

Jordan plans to host conference on tourism

AMMAN (J.T.) — Minister of Tourism Abdul Karim Al-Kabariti Tuesday said that the ministry is pursuing efforts to convene an international conference on tourism in Jordan, which, he said, would be held under the patronage of His Majesty King Hussein in late September or early October.

In an interview with Al-Dustour Arabic daily, Kabariti underlined the importance of such a conference, saying it would help Jordan to occupy a prominent status on the international tourism map.

The minister said that the conference idea surfaced after the establishment of a special body charged with promoting tourism in the country and after adopting a new method for the promotion of tourism in Jordan at international level.

The method is based on identifying two European countries to launch intensive tourism marketing in Jordan and then concentrating on two Arab Gulf states to do the same.

Kabariti pointed out that Jerash festival had been found to be one of the best means for marketing Jordan. He said that Jerash festival, which will be held next month, is one of the cultural landmarks at both the international and regional levels because of the host of cultural and tourist activities it includes.

Kabariti said that investment in tourism in Jordan has become an attractive opportunity, given the changing circumstances and the actual exchange rate of the local currency.



Abdul Karim Al-Kabariti

Kabariti blamed the high exchange rate of the Jordanian dinar as one of the reasons for not investing in this sector for the past years. He voiced hope that the promotion efforts made by both the private and public sectors in Jordan would pay off during the next few years.

On Monday, a delegation representing the Italian media arrived in Jordan for visits to tourist and historic sites in the Kingdom. The 300-person delegation will visit Jerash, the Dead Sea, Madaba, Jebel Siyaghia, Karak and Petra.

Italy comes in the second place in terms of number of tourists visiting the Kingdom. The number of Italian tourists witnessed an increase by 72 per cent in the year 1989 compared to 1988. The number of Italian tourists is expected to rise as a result of the marketing efforts of the Ministry of Tourism.

China blames Israel for peace stalemate

AMMAN (Petra) — The Chinese ambassador to Jordan Tuesday said that the Soviet Jewish immigration to the occupied Arab territories constitutes a breach of the international laws and places an obstacle in the face of achieving a just and durable peace in the Middle East.

Addressing a symposium on Jordanian-Chinese relations, held at the Royal Cultural Centre, the ambassador said that a just solution to the Middle East can be achieved through holding an international peace conference under the auspices of the United Nations, attended by the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council and the parties involved in the conflict.

He said that holding direct dialogue between the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and Israel, an Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territories as well as stopping all acts of repression against Arab citizens in the occupied territories can also contribute to achieving the long-sought peace.

He talked about the changing international situation, and described the arm race between the two superpowers and regional conflicts as grave threats to world peace and stability.

The ambassador praised the Jordanian-Chinese relations and said they were developing continuously at all levels.

UNRWA members to meet in Vienna

AMMAN (J.T.) — The advisory commission of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) is to open its annual meeting in Vienna Wednesday with the participation of all 10 commission members, including Jordan.

A statement here Tuesday said that Jordan will be represented at the meeting by Dr. Ahmad Qatani, director-general of the Foreign Ministry's Department of Palestinian Affairs.

The week-long meeting will review UNRWA's various activities in its fields of operations, emergency programmes and UNRWA's annual budget.

UNRWA is a subsidiary organisation of the United Nations General Assembly which began operations in May 1950. It employs an international and Palestinian staff in its drive to provide services to the refugees.

UNRWA's General Commissioner Giorgio Giacomelli is assisted by the 10 commission members representing Belgium, Egypt, France, Japan, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, Turkey, the United Kingdom and the United States.

Crown Prince expresses concern to the Soviets about Arab-Jewish situation

MOSCOW (Petra) — New developments in the Soviet Union and the opening of the door for Jews from the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe to emigrate have both hardened Israel's position and led to further complications of the Palestinian problem, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan said in a message read out at a meeting in Moscow.

"The Arab Nation's concern over the Jewish immigration does not come from a vacuum because the Arabs have long experience with Israel's policies in the occupied territories," the Prince said in his message to the Arab-Soviet dialogue which opened in the Soviet capital Monday.

The message, delivered on Prince Hassan's behalf by Lakhdar Ibrahim, assistant Arab League secretary-general, outlined the Arab Nation's position vis-a-vis relations with the Soviet Union, the situation in the occupied Arab lands and the Middle East conflict.

"We find it our duty to discuss the subject of Soviet Jewish immigration with our Soviet friends whom we hope to convince of our concern and to make them understand our deep worry and our suffering so that Moscow can play a positive and active role towards achieving a just and durable peace in our region," Prince Hassan said.

"The Arabs have offered many initiatives for peace, but they were all turned down by Israel which also turned down the Baker proposals. The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and all the Arab summits have backed peaceful initiatives but to no avail," the Prince pointed out.

He said that despite reservations about the United States policies, Arab countries decided to accept Washington's plans hoping that the United States will exercise pressure on Israel to adopt a positive stand. "Israel has rejected all bids for peace and its stand assumed a more adamant nature when the door for Jewish immigration was opened," Prince Hassan added.

He said that the Palestinian intifada has helped to create a worldwide awareness of the situation in the occupied territories and drew world community's attention to the tragedies of the Palestinian people, "but in order to counter this situation Israel has now resorted to playing the role of go-between in providing technology to the Eastern Europeans, in exchange for opening the door for Jewish immigration," Prince Hassan added.

"By so doing, Israel is trying to give rights to the Soviet Jews at the expense of the Palestinian people's rights in their own homeland," Prince Hassan added.

Prince Hassan, who is chairman of the Arab Thought Forum, said Jordan is now threatened by Israel since it lies directly along the confrontation lines with the Jewish state and in view of the Kingdom's close ties with the Palestinian people.

"Israel considers Jordan as the

substitute homeland for the Palestinians whom it is trying to evict by force and to settle Jews in their place and is therefore posing a direct threat to Jordan's security," Prince Hassan said.

"Jordan and the rest of the Arab World abhor the idea of mass destruction weapons being present in their region and they have supported all international agreements for disarmament. But Israel continues to develop its arsenal of mass destruction weapons and there are strong indications that it possesses nuclear, biological as well as chemical weapons and refuses to sign the nuclear non-proliferation treaty," Prince Hassan pointed out.

"Through this dialogue we hope to cooperate with the Soviet Union in fighting proper means of dealing with the situation and in making the world a safer place in which to live and co-exist," Prince Hassan added.

"We hope to study together and reach a formula for Arab-Soviet relations that would safeguard common interests," the Prince pointed out.

Looking back over the years, he said, one can view with pride the Arab-Soviet relationship which saw the Soviet Union helping the Arabs lay down infrastructures for numerous projects.

"The Arabs used to import their arms and food supplies from the Eastern bloc in increasing quantities and it must be pointed out that much of their debts to the Soviet Union resulted from purchases of Soviet arms," Prince Hassan said.

He said that circumstances have changed and are changing, and the two sides ought to find a new formula for their future relationship especially since the Arab World could be housing some 300 million people by the end of the present century and will need more food supplies, energy and water and technology.

Prince Hassan said that the Arabs look towards the Soviet Union as having to play a major role in reforming the world economic order, to rid the world community from problems like debts, poverty and the widening gap between rich and poor nations.

"The Arabs are looking towards a more fruitful relationship with the Soviet Union through close cooperation that can ensure the interests of all parties," Prince Hassan added.



Crown Prince Hassan

Illiteracy hinders economic and social development — UNESCO

By Nur Sati
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — In 1968, in Addis Ababa, a young mother rushed into a clinic with a sick baby in her arms. She was given a vial of drops and told the proper dosage but by the time she got home, she had forgotten what the nurse told her. After running frantically around the neighbourhood, she finally found a person who was able to read the label on the vial. By that time the baby was nearly dead.

This story, published by UNESCO, is a true example of how illiteracy can be as serious as life and death.

In developing countries, specialists insist, illiteracy has hindered economic and social development, cultural and spiritual growth. It is also incongruous to the fast changes of science and technology.

According to Dr. Abdelwahid Abdalla Yousef, a specialist in literacy at UNESCO regional office for Education in the Arab States (UNEDBAS), in ten years time, the world will see a different situation. "The pace of change in technology and science will be so fast that even the educated people will experience difficulties in catching up with changes unless they become re-educated or continue to learn."

UNESCO illiteracy figures show devastating results. The lowest estimate in the Arab World between the ages of 15 and above is 50 per cent of its 200 million population. Adult illiterates alone have increased from 58.6 million in 1985 to 61.1 million in 1990 and this figure is projected to rise to 70 million by the year 2000.

Yousef says: "The communities that are isolated from computers and television and other such technology, will create an even larger gap between the educated and uneducated, the rich and the poor, the rural and urban society and between teaching methods and the reality of society."

Consequently, failures, under-achievements and dropouts are inevitable. Even the successful children become alienated from their own communities and are attracted to lifestyles other than their own.

"Social groups with a high illiteracy rate have constituted social blocks that are relatively independent from the state and mainstream civic society," say UNESCO publications.

New teaching methods and concepts are the key to breaking that barrier, attracting and motivating learners and link education to civic society.

Specialists see literacy as the first step towards a more scholarly and skilled society. But literacy does not stop at only those who are unable to read, write or do arithmetic. A phenomenon on specialists worry over is that of "functional illiteracy," where the individual is unable to cope with the daily demands of life due to ignorance from lack of education.

Although there were no figures available for the Arab World, the numbers affected are seen as relatively high.

A UNESCO publication defines this form of illiteracy as "being able to decipher a text, but not succeeding in understanding it." The person may know the figures but be unable to master the four operations. He may manage to identify the name of a station but be able to use a bus or underground-railway plan."

These uneducated people, which form a large part of the working force, weaken the process of economic and political development and negatively affect the life of the individual in society. The country as a whole can avoid health and environmental disasters with the proper education," says Yousef.

The reasons behind having such a great number of uneducated people in society, aside from lack of proper education methods and concepts, are the shortage of qualified teachers. "The available ones are reluctant to accept additional work, in and out of class, because of inadequate material and moral incentives," UNESCO says.

Moreover, their low social and economic status forces a low self-esteem which adds to their lack of motivation and determination as a teacher. "They are regarded as tools of implementation," say UNESCO publications.

In order to translate into action a reform programme, that has

already been approved by the Arab countries, Yousef believes that certain conditions should be formed. A crucial setting includes the government and the people. That is to say that integration between the system, institutions, the private sector, media and citizens is necessary to create the atmosphere for learning. Meanwhile, the consumer should have or develop the motivation and will to change his or her life to the better.

So far, Yousef says, the attendance level in literacy classes throughout the Arab World is very low although classes start out in high numbers. "It is the responsibility of the nation at large to convince the illiterates that literacy is to their benefit."

The teaching approach is therefore an important element, according to Yousef, but in some Arab countries, the teacher approaches child and adult in the same manner.

The source of providing the economy with the needed trained labour force is education. Although much money is being channelled in education, the Arab World is not producing the right people for the skilled jobs. UNESCO figures show that the Arab universities have a student population of two million while the illiteracy level at that stage reaches six million. "If each student is given two illiterates to teach, then literacy would be eliminated within 10 years," the UNESCO official said.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- Exhibition of paintings and sculptures by five Jordanian artists at Abdel Hameed Shamm Foundation (10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.).
- Art exhibition by Dana Khreife and Luma Khreife at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- Exhibition of paintings by Mohammad Al-Barbari at Yarmouk University.
- Exhibition of products of the Jordan University of Science and Technology engineering workshops displaying equipment used in scientific labs.

LECTURES

- Lecture, in Arabic, on "The Economic Situation in Jordan" by Walid Al-Shar and Munir Hamarneh at the Royal Cultural Centre — 6:00 p.m.
- Lecture, in French, on "Charles Noddes" by Noel Favreliere at the French Cultural Centre — 6:00 p.m.

Jordan Times
Tel: 667171-6

NATIONAL NEWS IN BRIEF

King congratulates Sweden

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Tuesday sent a congratulatory cable to King Carl Gustav of Sweden, congratulating him in his own name and on behalf of Jordan's people and government on Sweden's national day. The King expressed hope for continued cooperation between the two countries.

IDB grants loans for industrial projects

AMMAN (Petra) — The Industrial Development Bank (IDB) board of directors approved granting five loans worth JD 610,000 to finance several industrial projects. Four of the loans are for existing industries and the fifth for a new project that will produce cotton towels and clothes. The number of loans granted by the IDB since the beginning of 1990 stands at 40 loans worth JD 6,548 million, of which 32 loans worth JD 4,843 million went to industrial projects and 8 worth JD 1,45 million to touristic projects.

King assails U.S. veto

(Continued from page 1)

Jordan," the former senator and head of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Senate told the Jordan Times.

In an earlier interview with the Jordan Times, Percy warned that continued settlements in the occupied territories would perpetuate tension in the Middle East and push the region towards another Arab-Israeli war.

Any such settlement, he said, "is like pouring gasoline into an already overheated situation" and "will push the area into the brink of war."

The delegation also met with Labour leader Shimon Peres, acting Economic Minister Yitzhak Mordechai, and Jerusalem's Israeli mayor, Teddy Kolek, as well as leaders of the leftist Citizens Rights Movement and groups such as Peace Now, Rabbis Human Rights Watch, Israeli Women Against Occupation, the Association for Civil Rights and Yesh Gvul.

In Amman, the delegation met Tuesday with members of the Palestine National Council. The delegation leaves Wednesday after a press conference at the Amra Hotel.

The delegation's visit to the Middle East was organised by the Washington D.C.-based Pax World Foundation and coordinated by the local chapters of the Middle East Council of Churches

Lower House begins session

(Continued from page 1)

democratic atmosphere.

New Bloc called for

Hussein Mjalli, another House member, called for the formation of a new parliamentary group to protect democracy and democratic rights in Jordan and to mobilise Jordanian public opinion with basic principles in which the Jordanian people believed in throughout their history. Mjalli said in his statement, which was carried by the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

BRITISH CITIZENS: RIGHT TO VOTE

The Representation of the People Act of 1989 has made important changes in who can vote in U.K. Parliamentary and European Parliamentary Elections.

- Even if you left the U.K. as long ago as October 1970 you can still vote.
- People who left the U.K. before they were old enough to be included on the Electoral Register may register as overseas electors.
- You need no longer declare an intention to return to the U.K.

In order to qualify you need to fill in an application form by 10 October 1990.

To get a form and explanatory leaflet contact the Consular Section, British Embassy, P.O. Box 87, Amman.

* 15 September 1990 in Northern Ireland.

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Attention: Recruitment Officer
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Amman - Jordan.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation.
Established 1975
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Editorial and advertising offices:
Jordan Press Foundation,
University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.

Telephones: 667171/6, 670141-4, 684311, 684366

Telex: 21497 ALRAI JO

Facsimile: 661242

The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays.
Subscription and advertising rates are available from the Jordan Times advertising department.

Moderation has a price too

ISRAEL has been working incessantly to bring to an end the U.S.-PLO dialogue in the wake of the Palestine Liberation Front's (PLF) failed raid on the Israeli coastline last week. Tel Aviv could not wait a second after the abortive raid to point an accusing finger against the PLO as the perpetrator of the attempted attack. Israel did that even before its investigation of the incident was concluded.

The rush to conclusions by the Israeli political authorities was so swift and arbitrary that they soon found themselves contradicted by the findings of their own military. The Israeli chief of military intelligence went on record as saying Yasser Arafat did not know beforehand about the operation. All of this suggests that Israel views the halt of the American-Palestinian ongoing talks as a strategic objective worthy of every effort, connivance or fabrication. Against this backdrop, it would be prudent to frustrate this Israeli manipulation of events by cool-headed diplomacy and to avoid at all costs falling into the trap set up by Tel Aviv. It took many years and concerted efforts to promote the ongoing Palestinian-U.S. dialogue, and while much doubt has been cast on its value or the probability of it ever producing something tangible or concrete, such negotiations probably ought to be continued with the hope that maybe, at the end of the tunnel, Washington may put right its priorities and perspectives in the Middle East.

This proposed policy needs to be developed and strengthened without giving credence to the false impression that policies are being dictated to the PLO every inch of the way on what words to utter or actions to take. Even for the PLO to appear like it is the underdog in all of its dealings with Washington would weaken the organisation and undermine its resolve to wage peace and conclude a peace treaty with Israel when the time is right. No party genuinely interested in peace between the Arabs and Israel would want that to happen. The flanks of the PLO need to be protected from all Israeli and Israeli-inspired designs and conspiracies and its moderate policies must be nurtured and protected. Otherwise, and as His Majesty the King pointed out to a U.S. delegation yesterday, the PLO could lose its mandate to walk the path of peace and to continue the reasonable and objective policies that it has adopted for itself.

JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

THE ANNIVERSARY of the 1967 Israeli aggression on Arab countries was discussed by Al Ra'i Tuesday. The paper said Arabs should remember June 5, 1967 as the day to remember their usurped land and to seek to regain it through renewed determination and all-out pan-Arab efforts. The 1967 war expanded the Jewish state's geographical area in our region but failed to bring the Israelis real peace and security; neither did that war achieve for world Zionism the great dreams of creating a greater Israel through military power and arrogance, said the paper. Despite the 23 years of occupation, and regardless of the immense material and financial support and assistance the Israelis continue to receive from their allies, they lack real peace, the paper said. One must admit that genuine peace cannot be achieved through cannons and rockets but through justice and right, and the 1967 war, like all Israel's aggressions on the Arabs, could by no means bring peace and stability to Israel or to the Middle East region since the basic requirements of that peace are still lacking, the paper said. Peace, it said, should see the Palestinian people regaining their homeland and their right to self-determination.

Al Dustour commented on Israel's response to Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev's call for guarantees that Jewish immigrants will not be settled in the occupied Arab territories. The paper said that by refusing to give such assurances, the Israelis have thus slapped the Soviet president on the face despite his endeavours to make the immigration question palatable to everyone and conforming with the spirit of justice and the will of the international community. Israel's response was rude, characterised with arrogance and ill-nature and manifested its real intentions of perpetuating its occupation and plans to expand its domination to new areas, the paper noted. There is no question now about Israel's policies in the occupied territories as it is counting on course on Washington's support and backing all the time and in all actions, the paper added. Furthermore, Israel is openly rejecting Gorbachev's demand so as to embarrass Moscow and cause further splits between the Arabs and the Soviet Union. It remains to be seen, said the paper, whether the Soviet Union will stick to its statements as voiced by Gorbachev at a press conference in Washington about the guarantees that would allow further Jewish immigrations.

Sawt Al Shaab also tackled Moscow's stand vis-a-vis Jewish immigration into Palestine and said Gorbachev was to be commended for his firm position. Israel is now challenging Gorbachev and Moscow to close the door of immigration simply because it is backed by Washington and it wants the United States to be involved and to pay the cost of immigration, the paper added. Israel is counting on its American ally in dealing with the Soviet Union, which is placing conditions for continuing the process of immigration. Sawt Al Shaab said. In fact it is hoping that the warm relations between Washington and Moscow will open the door wider for immigration, the paper continued. Israel, said the paper, is posing a defiance to Moscow and threatening the Soviets who sooner or later will have to respond and to prove whether they can deal with the issue or succumb to Israel's wishes.

ECONOMIC FORUM

Arab aid to Jordan: Not too late

By Dr. Abdalla Malki

THE ARAB financial aid to Jordan pledged under the Baghdad summit is coming to the rescue of the Jordanian economy at a time which is neither the right nor the wrong time. If it came earlier, the economic, social and political "return" on it would have been much greater. However, it is coming out too late and there is really every chance of making up for lost time and lost opportunities (provided, of course, it is really forthcoming).

If there is only one major lesson to be learnt from the economic developments of the last three or four years, then

this lesson must be that exchange rate issues should not be taken lightly, currency devaluation is too dangerous to be subjected to trial-and-error experimentation and that the stability of the exchange rate in a developed country is absolutely indispensable. We had devalued the Jordanian dinar in pursuance of irrelevant theoretical smartnesses and paid such terrible cost in the form of capital flight and wild jumps in cost of living. Many excuses have been made to justify this unjustifiable course of action. Had the Arab aid come two or three years earlier it would have denied devaluation mongers the

excuse which they used to seduce the politicians to slip down the devaluation slope.

Economic deterioration after the 1988 devaluation necessitated the adoption and implementation of the correction programme in participation with and under the supervision of the International Monetary Fund. The core of the programme is the elimination of the budget deficit. In this connection, two points have merged which, to specialists, must be crystal clear. Because the tackling of this deficit drew heavily on cutting public spending rather than on boosting re-

venues, deflationary effects have crept into the economy and are threatening to push it into continued depression. Here we come to the second point; the austerity involved in this correction mechanism is too big to be shouldered without the socio-political system cracking under its burden. This is a reference specifically to freezing wages amidst soaring prices (thereby costs of living) and high unemployment levels. To complicate things, cutting public spending is curtailing directly public investments and indirectly private investments in a way that will perpetuate unemployment and wage & sal-

ary freezing. The significance of Arab aid is that it can help break this vicious circle. It will uproot the budget deficit instantly and will thereafter allow the normal functioning of the public finance and the fiscal policy as to be a force that propels economic activity rather than constrains it. Certainly, putting the government house back in order will seed confidence and motivate the private sector to go back to normal action.

There is now almost a consensus that we should have paused in 1985 to make a thorough and in-depth assessment

of our economic conditions and our future path instead of proceeding, as we did, on the assumption that the future patterns of production and aid would mirror those of the previous years. To my mind, there is now a pressing need to pause and think carefully of how to use the promised Arab aid and to specify the concomitant domestic policies that would help to magnify its positive effects. It is sincerely hoped that the mistake of the 1985 will not be repeated. (But is any additional Arab aid really on the way?)

Israelisation of Jerusalem

By Daoud Kuttab

THE FORCED take-over by 150 Jewish settlers of the St. John's Hospice with the full protection of the Israeli security forces on April 11, 1990 was the latest expression of an ongoing Israeli policy to "Judaize" the city of Jerusalem. The process began immediately after the Israelis captured the city in 1967, first in the old Jewish Quarter, and then in other parts of the Old City and the rest of East Jerusalem. Thousands of Palestinians in the Mughrabi Quarter were immediately evicted and their homes levelled. The Jewish Quarter was expanded through expropriation of the surrounding neighbourhoods.

The Israelisation of Jerusalem has not been restricted to the Holy City. All maps of Jerusalem now available refer to the entire city by its Hebrew name; Yerushalayim; none mention its Arabic name Al Quds.

On June 28, 1967, the Israeli government unilaterally annexed East Jerusalem and placed it under Israeli civil law. The East Jerusalem municipality was dissolved and the Palestinian mayor of Jerusalem, Rawhi Khatib, was deported. Later a number of Muslim community leaders, including Shaikh Abdul Hamid Al Sayid, now the speaker of the PNC, were also deported.

One of the earliest statements made by an Israeli politician after the conquest of the city dealt with the issue of religious freedom and property. Levi Ashkol, then prime minister, said Israelis would respect the rights and properties of the various religious orders in the city. The promise was not kept. The latest action against the St. John's Hospice is just the latest of a long list of such violations. For Jerusalem's Muslims, the situation has been even worse. A large quantity of waqf (Islamic trust) property has been seized by the Israelis, members of the clergy were arrested, beaten and deported and worshippers generally harassed, even inside Al Aqsa.

The Israelisation of Jerusalem has not been restricted to the holy city. All maps of Jerusalem now available refer to the entire city by its Hebrew name, Yerushalayim; none mention its Arabic name Al Quds. They all omit the line that used to divide the city before 1967. Few street names appear in the maps of exclusively Arab neighbourhoods, and many of those that do are given only their Hebrew names. As a result it is difficult for anyone trying to find his way round East Jerusalem. For instance, if an American tourist wants to visit his consulate, he will be told that it is on Nabulus Road, which all available maps call by its Hebrew name Yebow Shehem.

Housing issue

While this could perhaps be seen as an example of symbolic in the construction that has taken place in East Jerusalem since 1967. Much of it has taken place outside the pre-1967 municipal boundary of the city but these areas have simply been added to the new Israeli municipality. A number of new settlements, exclusively for Israelis, were built in East Jerusalem for the purpose of preventing the return of the eastern sector of the city to Arab rule. The Israelis call these new housing complexes built on Arab land "neighbourhoods" rather than "settlements." Most of the inhabitants moved in for economic rather than ideological reasons.

Despite the housing shortage of the 1970s and '80s, the West Jerusalem municipality granted few permits for building houses for the 150,000 Arabs of East Jerusalem. Only one major housing complex has been permitted since 1967, the Nuseibeh Project. Many Palestinians believe that the Israelis allowed this to be built in order to ease the pressure from the Palestinian families who were being kicked out of the Old City to make room for the expanded Jewish Quarter. One Arab resident, Mohammad Burgan, whose house was just outside the original Jewish Quarter, had it confiscated in the early 1970s. It was advertised for sale in Israeli newspapers. Burgan applied to buy his own house back, but the Israeli company which was selling the house refused to let him. Burgan appealed to the High Court, but this was rejected because he was an Arab.

A new zoning plan for north Jerusalem, the one area where Palestinians had a chance to expand, has been held up because the Israelis fought among themselves about how many apartments should be allowed for the city's Arab residents. The housing ministry, headed by the Likud's David Levy, reportedly demanded that only 7,600 be allowed while the Jerusalem municipality, headed by the Labour mayor, Teddy Kollek, asked for 15,000. Not that Kollek was that benevolent towards his city's Arab population. The Palestinians, who make up about one-third of the entire city's population, only receive one per cent of the city's budget, according to newly elected city councillor Moshe Amirav. But whether it was the number of apartments or the budget distribution, Jerusalem's Palestinian population has never been consulted. The Israelis have what they believe to be a perfectly logical explanation. The Arabs are more than welcome to join the municipalities, by putting up candidates and voting them into office. Palestinians think differently. They, like the rest of the world, have never recognised the unilateral Israeli action of annexing East Jerusalem to the State of Israel. They still consider East Jerusalem an integral part of the West Bank and thus under occupation. To participate in municipal elections would be tantamount to accepting the legitimacy of the annexation.

Less than four per cent of over 80,000 eligible voters in East Jerusalem cast their ballots in 1989. Many of those were not Palestinian Arabs; they included Armenians and a number of priests, monks and nuns connected to the various foreign religious establishments in Jerusalem. Four years ago almost 19 per cent of the East Jerusalem population participated in the vote, helping Teddy Kollek to get two extra seats he needed to give him a majority — Middle East International.

Right-wing whites threaten de Klerk's moves towards an apartheid-free nation

By Barry Reinfrew
The Associated Press

JOHANNESBURG — Right-wing whites are organising and arming in a desperate effort to stop the government from sharing power with the black majority.

Their leaders are enraged by President F.W. de Klerk's plans to end apartheid and say they will never accept a black government. Both white and black leaders fear the right-wing will provoke violence that could endanger efforts to find a peaceful solution.

While the pro-apartheid Conservative Party tries to force an election and unseat de Klerk, more radical groups are arming for war.

Extremists have raided government armories for guns, neo-Nazis are organising military units and "White Wolf" groups have attacked blacks.

"We are preparing ourselves to meet the revolution that Mr. Mandela's killers will start; it will be a holy war," extreme right-wing leader Eugene Terreblanche said in an interview, referring to black leader Nelson Mandela.

On May 26, about 50,000 whites attended a Conservative Party rally in Pretoria to demand de Klerk's ouster. The crowd cheered wildly when party leader Andries Treurnicht said whites never would surrender political control.

"We shall not accept the threatened destruction of our nation's freedoms, but will fight to restore that which has already been unjustly given away," Treurnicht declared.

De Klerk said the tactics could start a war between whites.

"The Conservative Party's threats of revolt and resistance are irresponsible, undemocratic and dangerous," he said two days after the rally.

Officials say a few hundred

well-armed extremists with supporters in the security services could launch a devastating terrorist campaign, and attacks on blacks or government leaders could threaten fragile peace negotiations.

"There is going to be violence," said a security official, who would not let his name be used. "The question is how much."

Mandela and other black leaders share the government's concern.

"Unless the state acts immediately to stop the recent wave of right-wing attacks on black people, the whole peace process in this country could be in jeopardy," said the New Nation newspaper, which supports Mandela's African National Congress (ANC), the main black opposition group.

Many of South Africa's 5 million whites oppose plans to dismantle apartheid, the official policy of race segregation that preserves their privileges and denies rights to the 28 million blacks.

A growing number of whites, stunned by reforms de Klerk has introduced since assuming office last year, are turning to the Conservative Party or more extreme organisations. The fear blacks will seek retribution, and many have weapons in a nation sometimes described as "a wash with guns."

The Conservatives want whites to keep total control and blacks to be given political rights in separate, tribal-based states. They say de Klerk has betrayed whites, above all the dominant Afrikaners, who are descended from Dutch settlers and account for 60 per cent of the white population.

De Klerk legalised black opposition groups in February and has promised to negotiate a new constitution that will lead to power sharing with blacks.



F. W. de Klerk

Treurnicht claims whites and blacks cannot live together as equals because of cultural and other differences.

"Equal votes for blacks is disastrous in terms of racial and political stability," he said in an interview.

Like other right-wing leaders, Treurnicht insists Mandela and other black nationalists are Communists. He claims Mandela and his followers are waging war on whites.

Mandela has "disregarded the existence of the white nation in South Africa," Treurnicht said. "He does not intend to recognise any white community. In a sense, that is a declaration of war on the whites."

He says his Conservatives, who got 31 per cent of the vote in September's white elections, could win a whites-only election held now. Officials of the ruling National Party admit privately the Conservatives would stand a good chance.

The Conservatives cannot force an election, however, and

de Klerk does not have to call one until 1994. The government hopes to carry out its reforms before then and show whites they have nothing to fear.

Treurnicht, who holds a doctorate in religious philosophy, disavows violence and says his party will achieve its goals through the ballot box, but makes veiled threats of what could happen if it does not succeed.

"We have told Mr. de Klerk you cannot expect a people to lie down if you take away their rights," he said.

More extreme organisations, such as the neo-Nazi Afrikaner Resistance Movement, are preparing for what its leaders say is an inevitable "race war." The groups, which have thousands of members, are forming private armies.

"I say to the government that, if you are going to sell out the whites to the blacks in this unjust way, we are going to fight for what is rightfully ours," Jaap Marais, leader of the Eike National Party, said in an interview.

About 300 members of the Afrikaner Resistance Movement, dressed in khaki uniforms reminiscent of Nazi storm troopers, practised shooting, riot tactics and marching at a recent training session on a farm outside Johannesburg.

Women in uniforms were taught by former army instructors to use pistols and shotguns. Children played while their parents trained, and there were family picnics under the trees.

Janis Grobbelaar, a political analyst, said the extremists believe their survival is at stake, and these actions should not be simply dismissed as those of fanatic fringes.

She said they are determined to protect "what they see as the white South African way of life."

Mutt'n'Jeff



Andy Capp



Peanuts



Immigration debate gains legitimacy in Australia

By Michael Perry
Renter



The painting "The Founding of Australia," by Alister Tait, recreates the scene of the unfurling of the British flag at Sydney Cove, in Sydney Harbour, on the first fleet's arrival. In 1988, "Living Together" was chosen as the theme for Australia's bicentenary of European settlement. In 1990, however, the policy of easy migration to Australia is the centre of a hot debate.

SYDNEY — Australia, a nation built on successive waves of migrants, has never found it easy to come to grips with immigration. "In over 200 years there has always been the argument from those already here that no one else should come," said Carl Harbaum, Chairman of the Federation of Ethnic Communities' Councils of Australia.

The immigration debate bubbled to the surface again lately, but this time the discussion was based more on economics than emotion.

Some of Australia's most senior politicians and academics called for a cut, or at the very least a reassessment, of the present immigration policy which increases the population by around one per cent every year. Australia's current population is around 16 million.

In the past, attempts to stage a debate on immigration have degenerated into slanging matches. This time the charges of racism laid against those who dared call for a cut in immigration were conspicuous by their absence.

Australian Prime Minister Bob Hawke said he welcomed an unprejudiced debate on the issue.

"I welcome any informed and unprejudiced debate in this country about immigration," Hawke said.

"I have a commitment to immigration and what it has meant to this country, but that doesn't mean I think there is a sacredness about this issue which precludes debate."

Former Finance Minister Peter Walsh rekindled the debate by saying Australia's record level of immigration was fuelling demand in an overheated economy and

had to be cut. Australia allows 150,000 migrants entry each year.

Immigration officials say it is taking more people per head of population than any other country with the exception of Israel.

"It is beyond any reasonable doubt that the present immigration programme is seriously aggravating our short and medium-term economic problems," Walsh said.

"The additional demand for housing and other social infrastructure investment arising from immigration-induced higher population growth has a greater adverse impact on the current account."

Until 1959 Australia conducted a white Australia immigration policy. Today over 40 per cent of migrants come from Asia compared with 19.3 per cent from Britain and Ireland and 5.2 per cent from Europe.

For the past two decades determining the rate and composition of immigration has become a political nightmare for Australian governments faced with a vocal and highly politicised ethnic community.

"In the late 70s and 80s migration became a sacred cow and now to challenge it means you are labelled a racist," said Robert Birrell, senior sociology lecturer at Monash University.

"They (ethnic leaders) can't differentiate between an opinion on immigration and an opinion on migrants. They take it very personally."

This time, however, Walsh's comments attracted support from senior politicians, academics and media commentators.

Former Immigration Minister Stewart West called for a reassessment of the annual intake on economic grounds, saying the

present rate could be cut by 40,000.

"You have to ask yourself, does it make sense to bring 140-150,000 people a year in, now that we are sliding into recession," said West.

Birrell said present urban planning was inadequate for the high level of immigration.

He said 40 per cent of migrants settled in Sydney which was already suffering from a chronic housing shortage, sewerage problems and transport strains.

"The point is that we're running a high migration programme when we don't have in place the planning mechanisms or the finances to provide for these people," he said.

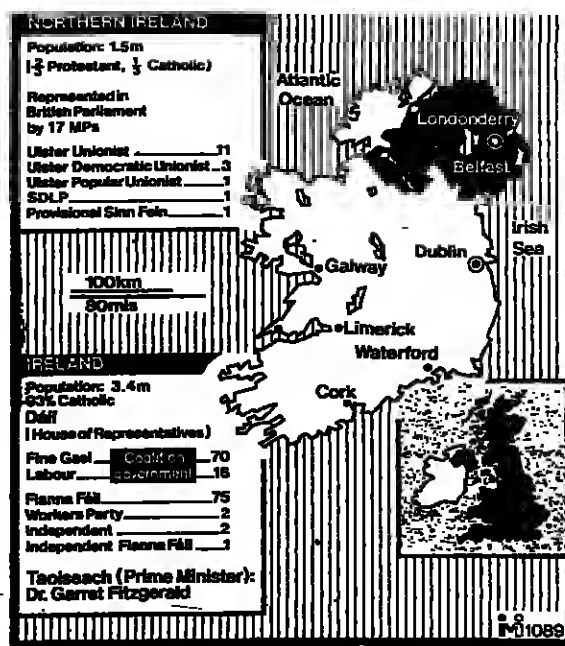
But Brian Parmenter, deputy director of Melbourne University's Institute of Applied Economic and Social Research, rejected Walsh's argument, saying that the accumulated capital migrants brought into Australia would offset any balance of payment pressures.

Parmenter said in 1989 migrants brought \$1.9 billion into the country.

"The majority view of economists is that the mechanism mentioned by Walsh is important, but there are still many other issues to be debated," Parmenter said.

Australia's business migration programme actively recruits migrants with business skills and up to \$50,000 dollars (\$649,000) to invest. About 10,200 people received visas under the programme in the year which ended on June 30, 1989, immigration officials say.

So far, said Harbaum, there is no indication of racial prejudice coming up in the arguments for and against (immigration) — it's been kept at the purely economic level.



Belfast's "peace lines" get a new look

By William Saltmarsh
Renter

BELFAST — While the Berlin Wall comes down, the walls of Belfast are having a face-lift.

Nowadays they come in a variety of styles and pleasant colours, set in landscaped lawns with flowerbeds at their feet. They could belong to parks or elegant private estates.

But these walls are meant to stop people killing each other. They're the "peace lines" of Northern Ireland's capital, the barriers that for two decades of guerrilla conflict have divided Protestant and Roman Catholic ghettos.

For most of that time the peace lines were high corrugated-iron fences, roughly patched up when they rusted or were torn down in the violence between Catholic nationalists seeking unity with Ireland and Protestants who want to remain part of Britain.

Gradually the British government has been replacing the shabby eyesores with red-brick walls, tall railings and steel panels the strength of which is overlaid with gleaming new paint.

Police said last week that yet another barrier is to be added to the network which products at strategic points across the city.

"While other people pull their walls down we're rebuilding ours — nicely decorated," said one Belfast resident.

The comparison with Berlin and the iron curtain has also been made by moderate nationalist leader John Hume, who rejects the violent route to Irish unity chosen by guerrillas of the Irish Republican Army.

"Barriers are coming down all over Europe," he said. "Are we to be the last?"

The British government denies that the solid look of the new peace lines signals permanence and pessimism over the solution of a conflict that has claimed almost 3,000 lives in the past 20 years.

"They're something that was here anyway. Since they're a reality we only want to make them more attractive," said one official.

"We could still bring them down easily, even gleefully. They're what the people in those areas want on both sides. It seems to give communities a sense of reassurance."

The government is also pouring money into building neat brick homes to replace bleak terraces

of sub-standard houses that fuelled the Catholic minority's charges of discrimination. Even the notorious Divis flats are coming down.

This massive concrete apartment complex close to the city centre was thrown up hurriedly to house Catholics who fled their homes in the early days of the violence.

Its high blocks and long balconies made it an instant fortress for nationalist gunmen and the scene of some of Belfast's fiercest fighting.

Women who lived there, struggling to bring up families amid the shooting, were reputed to have the highest consumption of tranquillisers in the Western world.

The remaining flats bear the scars — bullet holes, scorched walls, shattered windows. It's still a nationalist stronghold. Now, though, the people are moving out, into the new housing.

The battles continue in Belfast. Streets are potholed from the latest bomb blast or blackened where a car has burned. The divides between Protestant and Catholic districts — the British Army calls them "interfaces" — can be picked out by the gutted buildings.

But many Catholic areas have an air of self-confidence that contrasts with the grim depression of a few years ago.

Local people ascribe this partly to Britain's efforts to brighten their physical surroundings by building new homes, refurbishing houses that are worth saving, putting up sports centres and planting trees and flowers.

They say it also stems from the 1985 Anglo-Irish agreement which gave Dublin a consultative voice in day-to-day affairs in the province. Catholics see the Joint Civil Service Secretariat established under the agreement as providing them with a chance to air grievances about the way Northern Ireland is run.

The Irish tricolour flag flies openly over buildings in Catholic districts in a way that would once have invited rapid Protestant retaliation.

And nobody takes down unofficial signs renaming streets in Irish instead of English. Ballymurphy Parade is now Paraid Bhaile U Murchu.

But at least one name change — this time from English to English — reflects the reality underneath.

Peru's guerrilla capital faces 'psychosis of terror'

By Roger Atwood
Renter

AYACUCHO, Peru — "For 10 years I haven't felt calm for a single moment. Nor has anyone else here," said Father Gonzalo Leonardo, a Roman Catholic priest and school headmaster.

Once peaceful Ayacucho, birthplace of the Maoist Shining Path guerrilla movement, has spent the past decade under what one resident called a "psychosis of terror" caused by violence by guerrillas, security forces, and shadowy vigilante squads.

The city swarms with police and soldiers. At night sub-machinegun fire rattles on the outskirts and army trucks packed with troops rumble incessantly down the narrow streets.

People say they have grown to distrust their own friends and neighbours for fear of guerrilla informers.

The Maoist insurgency, launched 10 years ago, has transformed Ayacucho from a city known for its colourful religious festivities and folkloric art into the nation's synonym for terror.

"Before, when someone died, everybody went to the funeral. Now, with so much violence, people see a corpse in the street and walk right past without looking twice," said Leonardo.

Everyone in this city, 350 kilometres south of Lima, knows someone among the 19,000 who have been killed in the fighting, by either guerrillas, security



Fear and apathy are the few feelings left for the people of Ayacucho who live under a "psychosis of terror" with the Maoist Shining Path guerrilla in the neighbourhood.

forces or paramilitary squads that have sprung up in the past two years.

"People don't jump anymore when they hear gunfire or a bomb. It's become a part of daily life, part of our psychosis of terror," said Dario Del Pozo, a former mayor of the city of 120,000 people nestled in the Andean foothills.

Shining Path, which sees itself as the only truly Communist guerrilla group in the world, has fed on poverty and despair to bring parts of Peru's countryside to the brink of civil war.

The guerrillas chose the rugged hills outside Ayacucho to launch

the insurgency, feeling they could capitalise on the region's high illiteracy and infant mortality rates and years of neglect by the political establishment.

"Ayacucho has always been frustrated and neglected. The terrorists have taken advantage of that feeling," said Del Pozo, who lives a few blocks from where guerrillas killed Ayacucho's Mayor, Fermin Azparrant, last September.

The city's once solid tourism industry is in shambles.

Academics who used to come to study Indian customs and languages have been scared off. Western aid workers abandoned

the area after Shining Path killed two French agronomists in 1988.

What little business investment there was before the guerrilla war has almost completely dried up.

With virtually no new construction, the rundown city has ironically preserved a certain colonial-era charm over the years, with few modern buildings to overshadow the splendid churches and Spanish-style villas.

But the war's effects on the minds of residents has not deepened.

Children play a game called "terrorism," in which some pose as gun-toting guerrillas and others as police.

Their parents have been numbered not just by the violence but by the prospect that anyone in their midst could be a guerrilla informer.

"The party has a thousand eyes and a thousand ears," goes a Shining Path slogan, which most people in Ayacucho believe.

"Back in 1980, when this whole thing started, I knew Ayacucho was changing because people stopped talking in a direct way to each other, even with old friends," said Pedro Villena, rector of the city's San Cristobal De Huamanga University.

"People never knew who might be listening, so they became more

ambiguous in their conversation as if hiding something," he said.

The guerrillas deal ruthlessly with police informers, critics and anyone else who gets in their way. The usual way of death for such people is to be dragged from their homes at night, tied at the wrists, and shot.

A sign is usually left on the corpse stating the person's "offence" — "this is the way squealers die," for example.

Rightist vigilante squads have their own trademarks. They, too, usually strike at night, but wear masks to hide their identities and often take the victim away in a car before killing him or her.

The violence has aggravated social diseases such as alcoholism, child abandonment and wife-beating, residents say.

"We have a serious alcoholism problem in Ayacucho. People say: 'I might as well drink today, because tomorrow I may die.' We live very much in the present," Villena said.

Villena was a university colleague of Shining Path's mysterious founder, Abimael Guzman, a former philosophy professor who led a band of radical students and disaffected peasants into the mountains in the late 1970s to launch the insurgency.

In their first armed raid the guerrillas showed their disdain for "bourgeois democracy" by burning ballot boxes and voter rolls in the village of Chuschi, near Ayacucho, on the eve of presidential elections on May 18, 1980.

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Morocco eyes 1998 World Cup

RABAT (R) — As the World Cup finals begin in Italy this week, Morocco has its sights set on the 1998 tournament.

Turned down as hosts for the 1994 finals in favour of the United States, the kingdom is making a determined pitch for 1998.

The President of the Royal Moroccan Football Federation, left Monday for Rifa's annual meeting in Rome Wednesday.

He will try to persuade International Football Federation (FIFA) members it is time an African country hosted the event, staged so far only in Europe or Latin America.

The Moroccan will have a special stand at the meeting to present their plans to accommodate the World Cup.

"When the FIFA committee comes to Morocco (in 1992), it will find not just cardboard models but construction going on for eight new stadiums in the kingdom's main cities," said Kamal Lahou, a member of Morocco's organising committee.

In a television debate last week, sports experts expressed displeasure at FIFA's rejection of Morocco for 1994.

"The FIFA vote was not objective. They preferred the Americans to Africa despite the quality and popularity of African football," a Casablanca club trainer lamented.

Gonzalez keeps WBC light flyweight title

INGLEWOOD, California (AP) — Humberto Gonzalez of Mexico City successfully defended his World Boxing Council (WBC) light flyweight championship Monday night, knocking out Luis Monzote of the United States, at 54 seconds of the third round.

Gonzalez, who weighed 107.34 pounds (48.5 kilograms), is 27-0 with 21 knockouts. Monzote, who weighed 107 pounds (48.4 kilograms), fell to 12-7 with five knockouts.

Gonzalez, 23, floored Monzote twice in the third round with left hooks. After the second knockdown, Monzote was hit with seven consecutive punches before referee Dr. James Jen-Kin stopped the bout.

The first knockdown came 20 seconds into the round. Monzote got to his feet immediately and took the mandatory eight count.

However, just five seconds later, Monzote was down again. He struggled to his feet and again took the mandatory eight count, but after that, he was unable to defend himself and the bout was stopped.

Monzote, a 27-year-old Cuban-born left-hander, won the first round with quick jabs, but was hurt in the second with a left hand which sent him on the run.

The bout at the forum was scheduled for 12 rounds.

Gonzalez won his title last June 25 with a 12-round decision over Yul-Woo Lee in Seoul, South Korea. Gonzalez successfully defended his crown last December

by scoring a 12-round decision over Jun-Koo Chang in Taegu, South Korea and on March 24 by knocking out Francisco Tejedero in the third round in Mexico City.

Despite his record, Monzote was the WBC's top-ranked light flyweight contender which qualified him for the title bout.

Earlier Monday night, Joe Orewa of Los Angeles won a 12-round decision over Tommy Valdez of Tijuana, Mexico, in a super bantamweight bout. Orewa, who weighed 119.34 pounds (54.2 kilograms), is 18-4 with 10 knockouts. Valdez, who weighed 122 pounds (55.2 kilograms), fell to 29-6-1 with 22 knockouts.

In Reno, Nevada, former IBF champion Greg Haugen took a step toward a third title shot Monday night when he stopped Bobby Nunez at the start of the seventh round of their scheduled 10-round fight.

Nunez (17-10-1) fought back from a nearly disastrous third round that saw Haugen batter him against the ropes, but a cut that opened up under his left eye in the sixth round halted the fight at the bell for the seventh.

"I saw a little cut in the first round, a little trickle of blood," Haugen said. "He covered up good to the body. I decided to go to the head and work on the cut."

Haugen (25-2-1 with 12 knockouts) said he was wary of Nunez, a Sacramento, California fighter who boasted 11 knockouts. Despite the battering in the third round and Haugen's headhunting in the next three rounds, Nunez caught the aggressor with a right that stunned Haugen, although he smiled and shrugged it off.

Referee Mike Lane halted the fight midway in the sixth to let ring doctor John Wichman inspect the cut on Nunez's cheekbone. The doctor inspected the injury again after the sixth round and recommended that the fight be stopped.

The victory assures Haugen, of Las Vegas, of a rubber match with Vinny Pazienza Aug. 5.

World Cup final stadium fails to meet safety norms

ROME (R) — Rome's Olympic stadium, where the World Cup final will be played, does not comply fully with safety standards, Italy's interior ministry said Tuesday.

But it said Interior Minister Antonio Gava had granted special dispensation so the stadium, rebuilt in a rush for the World Cup at cost of \$140 million, could be used during the month-long soccer tournament starting Friday.

A spokesman confirmed a report in the Communist Party newspaper l'Unita which said ministry inspectors had found several aspects of the 80,000-seat stadium's design fell short of legal safety requirements.

These included emergency access tunnels below the legal minimum height for fire engines, inadequate escape routes for spectators and terracing of irregular height and width.

"If a dangerous situation were to occur and people had to flee they would not even be able to regulate their pace. Every terrace is a different height," trade unionist Bruno Raccio, a member of the ministry inspection team, told l'Unita.

A ministry statement, issued in response to the report, said Gava had approved a request from Italy's National Olympic Committee (CONI), the stadium's owners, for dispensation from the safety norms "limited to the staging of the World Cup."

The spokesman said the ministry was confident the shortcomings would not influence overall safety but that alterations would have to be made after the tournament.

"Where the tunnels are concerned, for example, the fire brigade would have to use smaller vehicles if there was a fire during the World Cup," the spokesman said.

The Olympic stadium will be used for six World Cup matches, including Italy's three group A first round games and the final on July 8.

The cost of roofing and virtually rebuilding the stadium for the tournament more than doubled from the original estimate and workers toiled round the clock to finish in time after delays caused by political disputes and environmental protests.

A CONI spokeswoman said the Olympic committee was satisfied that the stadium, inaugurated by Pope John Paul in front of a capacity crowd last Thursday, had been well built.

"There could be no better test than last week's inauguration," the spokeswoman said. "The only thing that counts for us is Gava's dispensation. Then we'll see after the World Cup what work has to be done."

Referees pass fitness test

ROME (R) — Twenty-three World Cup referees who failed tough fitness tests in March passed at the second attempt in Rome Monday, FIFA said.

FIFA's General Secretary Sepp Blatter said all 36 official tournament referees had now passed the demanding physical tests, designed to ensure they can keep up with play.

Joao Havelange, president of the sport's governing body, last week threatened to send home referees who failed the test a second time.

"They got the message," Blatter said. "They were much better prepared. Some of them had lost a few kilos and they looked much better. This is a professional sport and it's not good to see real athletes playing on the field while the referees have large bellies."

FIFA, who have introduced a tough campaign to clean up foul play, have brought in referees' fitness tests for the first time at the 1990 finals.

Blatter said match officials were given a course Sunday to ensure

that they clamp down on violence on the field and interpret the rules consistently.

FIFA have told referees they must send off players who tackle from behind or commit violent fouls. Havelange has warned the officials they will be sent home themselves if they fail to use the red card to punish such offences.

Blatter said he did not expect the FIFA directive to lead to a rash of sendings-off in the finals. "They will only show red cards if the teams don't behave," he said. "The same specific instructions have also been given to all the teams so that they will know the referees will be consistent. They know we mean business if they misbehave," he noted. "We don't want lots of players sent off."

FIFA named French referee Michel Vautrot to officiate at Friday's opening match in group B between Argentina and Cameroon in Milan.

Ireland manager Jack Charlton Monday attacked tough new World Cup guidelines for referees which he said could well encourage cheating rather than end foul play.

"They are encouraging gamesmanship in this competition to a degree I don't like. Referees will be on a hair-trigger," he told reporters at his team's World Cup training camp in Malta.

International Football Federation (FIFA) President Joao Havelange said last week that any referee who failed to send off players for violent offences would be sent home himself.

Charlton, whose team qualified for their first finals thanks to a highly physical style — with 10 bookings and two suspensions on the way, said he was worried Ireland would suffer from opponents' faking injuries.

Agassi beats Chang

PARIS (AP) — Andre Agassi, wearing one of his trademark outfits of hot pink, overpowered defending champion Michael Chang in French Open quarterfinals Tuesday, beating his compatriot from the United States, 6-2, 6-1, 4-6, 6-2.

The third-seeded Agassi reached his fourth grand slam semifinal and his second in three years on a game of sheer power.

Two streaks — five consecutive games row in the first set and the last six in the second — put Agassi in a dominating position. He finished the match by breaking Chang with a sledgehammer backhand volley.

Agassi next plays the winner of a match between two unseeded players, wildcard Henri Leconte and Jonas Svensson, for a berth in his first grand slam final.

Top-ranked Steffi Graf shook off a mid-match charge by Conchita Martinez and reached the women's semifinals of her 14th consecutive grand slam tournament. Graf opened the day of six quarterfinals with a 6-1, 6-3 victory.

Monica Seles, the second seed and the hottest player in tennis, survived a scare to win her 30th consecutive match. She rallied from a 1-4 deficit in the third set to beat sixth-seeded Manuela Maleeva 3-6, 6-1, 7-5. Maleeva, who hit herself in the head with her racket on a second-set shot, was two points from victory at 5-4, 0-30, when Seles took off to win the final three games.

Jana Novotna played Katerina Maleeva, while Jennifer Capriati, the 14-year-old from the United States and the youngest grand slam quarterfinalist in history, played seventh-seeded Mary Joe Fernandez.

The Agassi-Chang matchup looked as if it would offer a close contest. Agassi quickly took charge but Chang made a late run before strength won out.

The top-ranked player in the tournament after first-round upsets of Stefan Edberg and Boris Becker, the 20-year-old from Las Vegas, Nevada, broke for a 2-1 lead and won five games in a row before Chang came back from 0-30 to hold for 5-2. Agassi then held for the first set.

Since losing a five-setter to Mats Wilander in the semifinals in Paris two years ago, Agassi has

taken on a strenuous training programme to improve his power and stamina. The results showed in the second set.

Agassi pounded groundstrokes deep into the corners, running Chang out of position then coming to the net for winning volleys.

He had Chang in constant trouble, even when the 11th seed saved a break point and held serve in the first game. That was the only one for Chang in the set.

Agassi ran off six in a row, jumping on Chang's serves for stinging winners to break in the fifth game and move to 15-40 in the seventh game.

Chang saved one of those break points but Agassi closed the set with a putaway off a short lob, set up when he sent Chang deep into a corner to retrieve one of his bullets.

In the opening game of the third set, Agassi hit a backhand crosscourt winner that gave him a 40-15 lead, but Chang was starting to give him trouble.

The title-holder got his first break point since the second game of the match. Agassi saved it, though, and battled Chang through seven deuces before holding serve.

He saved two more break points in the fifth game, then changed his shirt. Agassi had been criticised for his flashy outfits this week, whereupon he called his critics "bozos." And he didn't get any closer to their traditionalist views with his new outfit, in which deep black replaced most of the prior white.

Chang finally broke for a 4-3 lead on a crosscourt forehand and held for 5-3. The speed and stamina that took him to the championship at 17 last year was starting to bring him back. He came back from 40-0 to reach break point when Agassi hit an open-court volley wide, before Agassi hit a short return for a 4-4 tie.

But the mini-victory took its toll. Chang was still looking a bit off, but often getting down too late as the fourth set continued. Agassi won the first three games at the loss of just four points. After Chang held at love, Agassi saved triple-break point on a half-volley and two winners, and held 4-1 as Chang made two errors.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF
BY YAMINAH HIRSHI
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AN OUNCE OF PREVENTION

Both vulnerable. North deals.

NORTH
♠ K 8 5
♥ Q 3 4
♦ 7 5
♣ A Q 7

EAST
♠ A Q 9
♥ 10 8 7 6 2
♦ 10 9 2
♣ J 8 4 3

SOUTH
♠ J 10 7 6 4 2
♥ K 5
♦ K 8 2
♣ 10 9 8 7

The bidding: North 1♣, South 1♥, North 2♥, South 3♥, North 4♥, South 4♥.

Opening lead: Ten of ♠.

On this hand from a team match, South's winning line is pretty tight. That it is not all that easy to spot is proved by the different results at the two tables.

Both teams reached four spades on identical auctions. Since North had considerably more than a minimum, with good support for partner's suit, a jump to four spades was clearly warranted. Both Wests led the ten of diamonds and both Easts covered with the jack, conceding the first trick to declarer's king.

At one table declarer ran the jack of spades. East won the queen and shifted to the singleton heart. A trump to the king lost to the ace and East returned a low diamond. In with the nine, it was not too difficult for West to work out what was going on. He reverted to a heart and East's ruff spelled own one. Pretty defense.

At the other table, declarer returned a diamond at trick two! This simple maneuver broke communications between the defenders. East won and shifted to a heart, taken in the closed hand. Declarer also took the losing trump finesse, but here East had no way to get to his partner for a heart ruff. Declarer was able to win any return, force out the remaining high trump and once the last trump was drawn, claim his game.

Because the key to success lies in supplying the enemy communications, this technique has become known in the trade as the "Scissors Coup."

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Ethnic unrest rages in Soviet Central Asian town, 10 killed

MOSCOW (R) — Clashes between ethnic Uzbeks and Kirghiz raged in the Soviet Central Asian town of Osh Tuesday in serious ethnic unrest which has killed at least 10 people and injured over 200.

"The centre of Osh is controlled by police but clashes are going on in the suburbs, mainly between Kirghiz and Uzbeks," Felix Kulov, deputy interior minister of Kirghizia, told Reuters from the republic's capital Frunze.

On Monday, police fired into a crowd of thousands of ethnic Uzbeks who rampaged through Osh — which is in Kirghizia — burning down houses and trying to storm the police station.

The Uzbeks, who form a majority of the town's population, started rioting after a fierce argument with native Kirghiz over land allocation.

Kulov said a state of emergency had been imposed on the town and six neighbouring districts, adding that two of the dead were policemen.

The situation might get worse because people are trying to get to Osh from neighbouring regions, including riders on horseback... we do not have enough troops to control the whole area," he said.

The clashes are the latest in a wave of ethnic unrest which has swept through the Soviet Union's southern republics over the last two years, killing many hundreds.

The Soviet News Agency TASS said the original argument in Osh Monday was sparked by a dispute between the two communities over plots of land near the city.

"Without permission, a group of Kirghiz, worried about being provided with new housing which is scarce in the region, occupied the plots to put up houses. Uzbeks demanded they also be allotted plots of land," it said.

Arguments over land allocation are common in Soviet Central Asia, but are usually linked to mismanagement of soil and water resources, which have created a growing ecological disaster.

In July 1989 thousands of villagers fought pitched battles on the border between Kirghizia and Tajikistan over land and water rights.

Elsewhere in Soviet Union, the Communist Party chief of the Ukraine was elected the republic's president Monday over protests from the parliamentary opposition and thousands of demonstrators, local activists reported.

Volodymyr Ivashko, a protégé of Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev, gained 60 per cent of the votes in the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet parliament, according to RUKH Press International, an arm of the nationalist Ukrainian People's Front known by the acronym RUKH.

Opposition members and protesters objected to Ivashko's hold on both the Ukrainian party leadership and the republic presidency, according to the unofficial RUKH press, which has proved reliable in the past.

Thousands of protesters gathered outside the parliament building Monday in the Ukrainian capital of Kiev and chanted "Ivashko out" and "shame on Communists," the report said.

Also Monday, Lithuanian President Vytautas Landsbergis said he hoped Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev would soften his stance toward the breakaway Baltic state after returning from the Washington summit.

But Landsbergis added in an interview with the Voice of America radio that he did not hear any encouraging words from Gorbachev during the summit meeting with U.S. President George Bush.

"The worst would have been if Mikhail Gorbachev came out with the impression that everything is doing vis-a-vis Lithuania is permitted," Landsbergis said in the interview, a transcript of which was provided in English to the Associated Press.

Landsbergis said he hoped Gorbachev would "thoroughly review" the Lithuania situation upon his return.

European human rights conference begins

COPENHAGEN (R) — European foreign ministers opened a human rights conference here Tuesday, with Danish Foreign Minister Uffe Ellemann-Jensen saying it could reap a rich reward from the 1989 revolution that ended old-style communism in East Europe.

"In the course of this one year, the peoples of Europe have opened a new chapter in the book of history," he told the conference audience which included Danish Queen Margrethe.

The conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) human rights meeting is part of the follow-up process to the 1975 Helsinki Accords which laid down guidelines for East-West cooperation on security, economics and human rights.

"This year in Copenhagen, we can reap a rich reward of the European revolution of 1989," Ellemann-Jensen said.

Foreign ministers of most of the 35 CSCE signatories, including all European states except Albania plus the United States and Canada, are attending the meeting.

The meeting will also provide a forum for talks about the future security status of a united Germany.

U.S. Secretary of State James Baker on arrival at the conference centre crossed the main meeting hall to shake hands with Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze.

The two men will meet later after separate meetings with West German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher.

Ellemann-Jensen said in his speech the ministers would decide to set up a committee to plan a CSCE summit which is likely to be held in Paris.

As Baker arrived, about 150 demonstrators against anti-Semitism in the Soviet Union and in favour of the Kurdish minority in Turkey and Macedonians in the Balkans, kept up a noisy but peaceful protest.

Manila court nullifies Enrile indictment

MANILA (R) — The Philippine Supreme Court, in a serious political rebuff to President Corason Aquino, ruled Tuesday that the government's charge of rebellion and murder against opposition leader Juan Ponce Enrile was invalid.

The decision nullified the criminal cases filed by state lawyers against Enrile and about 20 other civilians linked by the government to last December's failed army coup attempt.

Chief Justice Marcelo Fernan said the court voted 11-2 to nullify the government's charge.

But in its 18-page decision, the supreme court also recommended that the Philippines Congress tighten up the law on rebellion.

Seoul expects ties with Moscow soon

SAN FRANCISCO (R) — South Korean President Roh Tae-Woo said he and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev had agreed in principle to establish diplomatic relations, but he left unclear how or when normalisation of relations would occur.

There was no immediate confirmation from the Soviet Union about Roh's statement, which he gave at a news conference Monday following the historic meeting, the first ever between leaders of the two nations.

Gorbachev, who declined to participate in the news conference, made only a general remark after his one-hour meeting with Roh, referring to the Soviet Union's wish to improve relations with all Pacific rim nations.

"We must improve relations with everyone who lives there. We can't do it selectively," he said.

Gorbachev did not specifically mention South Korea and a short time later left San Francisco for Moscow.

Gennady Gerasimov, the Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman, sounded more positive when he told Reuters: "All that happened is for the good of both Koreas."

Asked if the announcement might sour Soviet relations with its ally North Korea, Gerasimov said, "We have good relations, I hope it will not. North Korea is also for unification."

Roh told reporters, "we have agreed it is time for the waves of openness and détente to reach the peninsula of Korea." Six East European countries and Mongolia have established full relations with South Korea, expanding Seoul's trade horizons.

The Soviet Union has been a staunch supporter of North Korea's Kim Il-Sung, who has led the country since the peninsula was divided by the two superpowers at the end of World War II.

North Korea reacted with alarm to its southern neighbour's rapidly warming relations with the Eastern Bloc, withdrawing at least one ambassador from that area.

Roh said his meeting with Gorbachev was aimed at creating more stable relations between the two Koreas that could lead eventually to reunification of 70 million Koreans in the divided peninsula.

He said he and Gorbachev had agreed their senior ministers would continue talks on achieving diplomatic relations and reunification.

"Korea now remains the only country on Earth that is still divided as a legacy of the cold war," Roh had said before the meeting with Gorbachev, which capped the Soviet leader's week-long visit to Canada and the United States.

The U.S. ambassador to Moscow, Jack Matlock, reacted favourably to Roh's announcement.

"I think it's very good, I'm glad to hear it," he said.

Roh said he had asked Gorbachev to intercede directly with North Korea to end that country's "military posturing" and bring an end to the arms race on the Korean peninsula.

The Soviet Union supported and armed the North Korean forces which invaded the South in 1950, setting off the three-year Korean war involving China and a 16-nation United Nations force under U.S. command.

Roh said that "as a result of our meeting, normal bilateral relations will be established..." but he indicated that ties were not imminent. "Further steps will require more time but we are very hopeful," he said.

Roh said that the meeting with Gorbachev could also lead to stronger ties to China. "We expect our relations with China to further develop as time goes by," he said.

Washington (R) — U.S. President George Bush, criticised for being too conciliatory towards China, has said he will seek closer ties to Peking only when the Chinese government adopts reforms to safeguard human rights.

Bush marked the first anniversary Monday of the Tiananmen Square massacre in Peking by expressing "deep concern" over China's human rights record and voicing U.S. support for those who seek freedom.

More than 200 civilians and several dozen soldiers were killed, according to official figures, when the military crushed the pro-democracy movement in June 1989. Foreign diplomats and human rights organisations estimate the dead at more than 1,000.

"The world will continue to watch in the years ahead with the hope that China will turn decisively away from repression and toward the path of reform," he said in a statement.

"The American government — which values good relations with the Chinese people and government — stands ready to develop this relationship as China resumes its path."

A senior aide, National Security Adviser Brent Scowcroft, said Sunday on Cable News Network he saw no point in more overtures to Peking. Bush, criticised for

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Bunny jailed in Finland

PORVOO, Finland (AP) — A small, white rabbit has been jailed for vagrancy after loitering around in this sleepy town in south Finland, police said. A man on his Saturday morning walk spotted the rabbit and alerted the police. A patrol fetched the animal, which they believed to be someone's pet, and put it in custody, a police spokesman said.

"We have nowhere else to keep it, so we put it in jail. We are just doing our duty," police Sgt. Antero Pennanen said. Pennanen said policemen were feeding the rabbit dandelion leaves which "are plentiful on the police grounds."

"There have been lots of phone calls and offers to give it a home, but we are still looking for its right owner," Pennanen said.

Protesters say mafia framed priest

PROCIDIA, Italy (R) — About 300 fishermen have protested against the arrest of a Naples priest, saying he had been framed by the city's mafia for condemning organised crime. The fishermen chanted slogans accusing the camorra, the Naples version of the mafia, of setting up Father Giuseppe Ruffillo, who was arrested Saturday on charges of molesting a 14-year-old boy, Ruffillo, 39, is under house arrest on the island of Procida, off the Neapolitan coast. The priest, who gained national attention for his stinging attacks against the camorra and its drug trafficking, has asked his bishop to suspend him from priestly duties until his name is cleared. The residents of Ruffillo's native island, as well as his parishioners in Naples, are convinced the camorra framed him by forcing the boy to make false statements. The protesters outside his house in Procida held up banners reading, "fight the camorra" and "Father Ruffillo is innocent."

'Ghost buster' held after cheque bounces

MADRID (R) — A psychologist who claims to have recorded ghostly lamentations in an empty Madrid palace was detained Monday after one of her cheques bounced, police said. A spokesman said Carmen de Sanchez Castro was held at Madrid police headquarters on a judge's order. He gave no details. De Sanchez Castro made recordings, which have been widely broadcast, of whispering voices she said belonged to a couple who owned the Linares Palace in the 19th century. Their lives were shattered when they learned that their marriage was incestuous. De Sanchez Castro, who spent 18 months investigating the theory that the palace is haunted, also produced photographs of eerie lights said to be ghostly ectoplasm in the building. The palace is to be restored and used as a venue for the 500th anniversary of Christopher Columbus's discovery of America.

Soviet-U.S. group to make condoms for Ukraine

SAN FRANCISCO (R) — A California company and a Soviet-American business group have said they have agreed with the Ukrainian ministry of health to make, market and distribute condoms in the Soviet Union. "Because of the extreme need for condoms in the Soviet Union, this project is being given top priority by the Ukrainian Ministry of Health," said David Mayer, president of privately-held, California-based Mayer Laboratories Inc. Mayer Labs and Soviet-American Business Opportunities Inc. a Monterey, California-based, privately-held firm specialising in East-West trade, said they will form a joint venture to make about 225 million condoms annually at a factory near Kiev. "We are in the process of finalising the required studies and necessary joint venture documents," Mayer said. The companies said the first phase of the project is expected to begin in early autumn. Pamela Kayfer-Rohana, executive vice president of the Soviet-American Business Opportunities group, said about 1.4 billion condoms are needed in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union annually. In 1989, only 200 million condoms were available in the Soviet Union. The Russians currently import condoms from India and China.

Mulroney whittles down opposition to Quebec pact

OTTAWA (R) — Prime Minister Brian Mulroney whittled down opposition to granting Quebec special status within Canada Tuesday.

The other constitutional issue was kept alive by two dissenting provinces.

A buoyant Mulroney, emboldened by a change of heart by the New Brunswick premier, told reporters that new federal proposals aimed at breaking the constitutional deadlock won enough support to merit more discussions Tuesday.

"I think we did make some progress in there," Mulroney said after a four-hour evening meeting. "But it's tough going."

The Meech Lake Agreement, which must be passed by June 23, would bring French-speaking Quebec into the 1982 constitution — which it has refused to endorse — and recognise the province as a distinct society.

English-speaking Canada faces a growing threat of separatism in Quebec over the issue.

The Atlantic province of New Brunswick, one of the key hold-outs, said its endorsement hinged on assurances that reform of the national Senate would be dealt with in a timely fashion.

"In substance it meets most or all of the concerns of New Brunswick," McKenna said. "We're into a tough, tough, piece of work."

S. African police disperse protesters; raze shacks

JOHANNESBURG (R) — South African police said they fired shotguns and teargas to disperse black protesters who attacked municipal staff demolishing squatter shacks east of Johannesburg.

Black community organisations said up to 20 people were wounded in the clash Monday, at least two of them seriously. A council official said 15 people were arrested.

Dozens of blacks assaulted council workers who used a bulldozer to flatten 400 out of the 35,000 shacks in the Phola Park squatter camp near the white town of Alberton, newspapers said Tuesday.

Police said they fired shotguns at blacks who stoned and set fire to police and municipal vehicles after the demolition began shortly after dawn.

"When they saw the community gathered, the police saw it as an illegal gathering and fired into the crowd," Phola Park Residents Committee Vice-President Prince Mhlambi told the newspaper Business Day.

Alberton Town Council said the razed shacks were occupying a council sports field. The occupants had been ordered to leave.

Some shacks have grown following an influx of blacks to the area which accelerated when the government abolished apartheid laws restricting blacks' movements in the mid-1980s.

Some are demolished regularly, causing sporadic violence.

In Kompa township in Cape province, a group of blacks killed two people by placing petrol-

filled tyres around their necks and setting them alight, police said.

The same "necklace" method was also used to kill a man at Kwanash township near Durban in the Indian Ocean province of Natal.

In a separate incident in the township a man was killed when he was stoned and set alight by a mob, according to Tuesday's routine report on political unrest in the previous 24 hours.

Meanwhile, a top-level United Nations team will visit South Africa from June 9 to 19 for talks with government and party leaders on measures being taken to end apartheid, a U.N. spokeswoman announced Monday.

The mission stems from a "declaration on apartheid and its destructive consequences in southern Africa" adopted by consensus at a special three-day General Assembly session last December.

The Assembly asked Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar to prepare a report by July 1, 1990 on progress made in implementing the declaration, which called for such steps as the release of all political prisoners, the removal of troops from black townships and an end to the state of emergency.

The team will be led by Under Secretary-General Abdul Razim Al Farah, who heads the U.N. Department for Special Political Questions, Decolonisation and Trusteeship, and will include the head of the U.N. Centre Against Apartheid, Assistant Secretary-General Sotiris Mousouris.

Rebels reach outskirts of Monrovia airport

MONROVIA, Liberia (AP) — Rebels advancing on the Liberian capital have seized part of a large rubber plantation adjoining the international airport, but the government said Tuesday that it still controls the airport.

President Samuel Doe's government acknowledged that airlines have halted flights at Robertsfield International Airport.

Diplomats said Monday the cancellations began after a group of Liberian soldiers fired on their own men, believing them to be rebels.

As the rebels moved Monday on the U.S.-managed rubber plantation, the world's largest, they surrounded its factory, 1.6 kilometres from the airport. The airport is 56 kilometres southeast of the capital.

The 24-hy 32-kilometre plantation is owned by Bridgestone-Firestone Inc., a U.S. subsidiary of the Japanese company Bridgestone Corp. It contains 75,000 people — 8,400 are employees and the rest dependents — and has been swollen by up to 10,000 refugees from the fighting.

Plantation sources said some workers left their posts as the rebels approached.

An official of the corporate parent in Tokyo said family members of the plantation's 30 foreign staffers were evacuated two to three weeks ago.

Residents of Harbel, the company town, said vehicles flying the red rebel flag and guerrillas wearing the red bandanas of the rebels had moved onto the eastern part of the plantation, which this year was to produce 46.7 million kilograms of rubber.

Confusion appeared to beset the government forces.

At Owensgrove, a key checkpoint 11 kilometres from the airport, soldiers fired at fellow troops carrying wounded from the port of Buchanan Sunday night, diplomats and other sources who monitor military radio said.

Buchanan, 151 kilometres by road from Monrovia, was captured by rebels two weeks ago. It is the main port for exporting iron ore, which used to earn more than 70 per cent of Liberia's foreign currency.

The diplomats said soldiers at the checkpoint fired mortars and machine guns at the approaching group, who returned the fire.

"They scared the hell out of each other and all took off into the bush, deserting the checkpoint," said one Western diplomat.

Army Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Henry B. Taylor told reporters that in some cases, soldiers of the army, which he called "ceremonial," had deserted their posts. He said officers were afraid to give orders to their soldiers, and that many soldiers panicked.

"The firing starts and they run away," he said.

India offers new proposals to Pakistan

NEW DELHI (AP) — Prime Minister V.P. Singh said Tuesday that India has moved to check worsening tensions with Pakistan after months of diplomatic feuding and increased military build-up.

"We have offered them a package of proposals," Singh told reporters at New Delhi airport on returning from a five-day trip to Malaysia. "We hope there will be a friendly response."

Singh did not give details of the package or say when the proposals were made. Asked if the proposals included the possibility of a meeting with Pakistan Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, he said: "One act of good faith by Pakistan will completely change the situation. We do not need a summit to solve problems."

"There is a road of confrontation and a road of friendly relationship," he said. "The road of friendly relationship is more politically sagacious and we hope Pakistan will also see it that way."

In Islamabad, Mrs. Bhutto called a meeting of her cabinet's Defence Committee Tuesday to discuss the Indian proposals.

Both nations accuse each of inciting ethnic and religious violence in each other's territory. India claims Pakistan trains and supports secessionists in the border states of Kashmir and Punjab. Islamabad accuses India of partial responsibility for widespread ethnic violence in Sind province.

Both countries have moved their armies closer to their shared border.

U.S. to start destroying chemical arms

WASHINGTON (AP) — The United States plans to begin destroying chemical weapons at a remote Pacific island late this year, well ahead of the schedule set in a treaty signed at last week's superpower summit, officials have said.

The destruction of older U.S. chemical arms stored in West Germany is to start at an army facility on Johnston Atoll, said Barry Daniel, a spokesman for the State Department's Arms Control and Disarmament Agency.

The weapons will be brought to the island beginning Aug. 1, he said, adding that destruction is expected to begin by the end of the year.

The Johnston Atoll plant was built to meet a 1985 congressional requirement to destroy all existing U.S. chemical weapons by 1997 as a condition for approving a Defence Department program to produce a new generation of such weapons.

The agreement signed Friday by President George Bush and Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev requires each side to reduce its stockpile to 5,000 tons by 2002, although the Soviets have no active facility for destroying their weapons.

The United States says it has about 25,000 tons of chemical agents; the Soviets say they have 50,000 tons. The two nations are the world's largest holders of such weapons.

Destruction is supposed to begin by Dec. 31, 1992, but doubts have arisen over the Soviets' plans because the government last summer shut down its only destruction facility, at Chapayevsk on the Volga River, because of environmental protests.

Moscow has announced no plans for building another plant, but U.S. officials said they were confident the Soviets would be able to begin destruction in 1992, even if they might need U.S. technological assistance to do it.

"It's our expectation that they would be able to fulfill the agreement," Daniel said.

The United States, he said, could help the Soviets build another destruction plant, although there is no such official plan.

Another possibility, though less likely, is that some Soviet chemical arms could be destroyed at U.S. facilities, he said.

The Soviet method of destroying chemical weapons is to decompose the active nerve agent by mixing it with alcohol, making